

**Hunstanton
Methodist
Church at
130 Years:
A Story to Tell
2026**

Contents

Chapter 1: Foreword and introduction

- Reproduction of Miriam Walpole's History of Hunstanton Methodist Church

Chapter 2: Earlier times

- 1851 Census of Religious Worship
- The Building of Chapels
- Press reports

Chapter 3: The first 'Tin Hut' church

- Press reports 1889 – 1892
- Sir Alfred Jermyn

Chapter 4: The 1896 Church

- More press reports
- Mr David Barr of Birmingham
- Hunstanton in 1896
- 1896 book: *Enquire Within*
- *Scripture Cake* recipe
- Press reports

Chapter 5: Photographs and advertisements from earlier times

Chapter 6: Post WWII to present day

- Photos and brochures.
- Children and youth activities.
- March 1982
- Charitable fund-raising
- Fairtrade and Traidcraft
- Face up, stand up, speak up
- A plea for help
- Retirement of Rev Kim Nally
- Mission Aviation Fellowship
- Serving the community
- External hirings
- Redevelopment 2009.
- People
- Humour
- The Absentee Alphabet
- Climate and Justice Group - Matjinge

Chapter 7: Personal reflections

- David Elvidge
- Julia and Michael Warnes
- Jean Parton and Anne Barker
- Rev Ray Cummins

Chapter 8: Acknowledgements

Chapter 9: List of ministers and circuit 1945-2010

Chapter 1: Foreword and introduction.

Foreword

It is with great joy and a profound sense of gratitude that I write this foreword to mark the 130th anniversary of our beloved church. This remarkable milestone stands as a testament to the enduring faith, resilience, and unwavering commitment of our congregation and all those who have walked through our doors over the decades.

Since its opening in 1896, our church has served as a spiritual home for generations, providing not just a place of worship, but also a centre of compassion, fellowship, and service for our community. Through times of celebration and moments of challenge, we have stood together, guided by our shared belief and the teachings that continue to inspire us today.



This publication commemorates the journey we have travelled, honouring the legacy of those who came before us and celebrating the vibrant life of our church as it is today. It is also an opportunity to reflect upon the values that have enabled us to thrive — love, kindness, and a steadfast commitment to serving others. Our story is one of faith in action, lived out daily in the lives of our members and in the outreach that touches so many beyond our walls.

As we look to the future, let us draw strength from our shared history and remain open to new possibilities and growth. May this anniversary inspire us to deepen our faith, nurture our community, and continue our work with renewed hope and joy. My heartfelt thanks go to all who have contributed to this publication, and to everyone who has played a part in our church's ongoing story. Together, we celebrate 130 years — and look forward to many more blessed years ahead.

With every blessing,

Rev Dr Richman Ncube

Introduction

Miriam Walpole's *History of Hunstanton Methodist Church* was published in 1996 to commemorate its 100th anniversary.

The object of this new edition was to continue the story as the church reaches its 130th anniversary in 2026; however, as news got around of my endeavour I was given new insights into those earlier years. Much of this was information that would not have been readily available to Miriam, thanks to the world-wide web and my contacts with fellow archivists. So, what started as a 'History Part 2' has expanded.

In hindsight I should have commenced this account when some of our dear members were still alive, for they would have had fascinating memories. However, I am grateful to present members of our fellowship for their input, and I have also been able to access some archive material.

David Elvidge
Church Archivist
May 2026



Sketch by Rev David Bucktrout

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH,

AUSTIN STREET, HUNSTANTON

by

Miriam Walpole

"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ... think on these things."

Philippians, Ch. 4, v. 8.

This seems a good start for my potted history! It is to be hoped that the quality of the remainder will not fall too far below that of the introduction.

FROM "TIN HUT" TO DESIRABLE CHAPEL WITH ALL "MOD. CONS."

The beginnings of the Methodist Church in Austin Street, Hunstanton, were so unlikely that the story would not disgrace a work of fiction. In 1887, the Wesleyan Conference decided to divide the Walsingham Circuit into two parts, the chapels in Walsingham and the East to be in the Dereham Circuit and those on the west to be in a new circuit based on Hunstanton. What was so extraordinary about this far-sighted decision was that there was only a derelict and forsaken chapel in Hunstanton at that time and precious few Methodists!

The Rev. G. Howson was appointed Minister and he was allowed to preach one Sunday a month in the Union Church, the Quarter Board of that church charging the sum of £1:1:0d. Not all the Unionists were happy about this, "*being fearful where unto this might grow,*" but the Trustees unanimously consented to it.

Evidently the Rev. Howson, who may have had other skills, did not feel he was quite the man for a pioneering job and he left after one year, leaving on the class register only two names - Mr. Smith, who lived at the lighthouse, and his sister, who lived with him, their Christian names not being recorded. (In 1996 we would be more likely to know their Christian names, and not their surnames!)

The second Minister to be appointed, in 1888, was Rev. D.W. Barr. His talents were more to the point. He stayed two years and left a much healthier class register (12 names after the first year) and a Sunday School whose Superintendent was Mr. Smith, organist Miss Smith, classes being held at first in the lighthouse.

Rev. D.W. Barr left an excellent handwritten account of how the "tin-hut" came to be built and how some coolness developed between themselves and their former friends, the Unionists. In no way can I improve upon it and I will let my readers enjoy it verbatim. (This notebook turned up in the church safe.)

"I found that there was no chance of holding any 'Methodist meetings' at the chapel so I got what Methodists there were in the town together - at least as many as would come - and we started a class meeting at the Minister's house which met every Friday night during the winter. In the spring our membership numbered nearly a dozen. In Dec. 1888 we started a mission at Old Hunstanton, the only available place being the Club Room behind the Neptune Inn. This was so successful that Mr. Jermyn and I decided to approach the Squire with a request that he would let us have a site of land in that village for a Wesleyan Chapel. Accordingly we asked Mr. J.H. Page of the Union Chapel, who knew the Squire, to arrange an interview for us and to introduce us. We went on Feb. 2nd, '89. The Squire did not care to grant a site of Old Hunstanton (for reasons which do not concern us,) but he said to us, 'Why not have a site of land at New Hunstanton? It seems to me that you will want one there eventually.' This came upon us like a thunderclap

for it was generally rumoured that the Squire had expressed his intention to grant no more land in New Hunstanton for Non-conformist places of worship. We told him that the arrangement with the Union Chapel satisfied our present needs there, but further questioned him as to the position of such a site of land as he would let us have. We came away, however, resolved to refuse this offer and I gave up all hope of getting a Wesleyan Chapel in the neighbourhood at all. Between 2 and 3 months passed and I casually heard one day that Mr. Barkham was busy circulating a memorial for signatures to the Union Chapel Trustees asking them to appoint a staked Pastor (which had never been done during the 20 years of its existence) and I knew that this would mean the termination of our arrangement with the Union Chapel. So I had an interview with Mr. Jermyn and finding that under the new condition of things, he was prepared to go in with me for a chapel at Hunstanton, I immediately wrote to Mr. Le-Strange to inquire if his former offer was still available. He replied in the affirmative and referred me to his surveyor, with whom every arrangement was easily made. The Squire and his representative treated us in a businesslike, gentlemanly and Christian manner and made a deduction from the annual ground rent in consideration of its being a place of worship.

This caused a slight misunderstanding between the Methodists and our former friends, the Unionists, so Rev. D.W. Barr wrote an article for the Methodist Recorder in which he devoutly hoped that the breach between the Union Church and the Methodists would soon be healed. He says, "There is the utmost need for strength of union among Non-conformists in the face of priestism and ritualism in the Anglican Church."

(Rev. D.W. Barr was a man of his time! To us in 1996 this seems an outdated concept. We hope for union of all Christian Churches and are attaining it in some small measure. Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Non-conformists not infrequently join in ecumenical services and activities, each respecting the others' views.)

Mr. Thomas Hill was a member of the congregation. His handwritten notebook of all the discussions and events surrounding the start of the new chapel has also survived. At risk of some overlapping, a good deal of this notebook is also reproduced so that all may enjoy it. The notebook is in excellent condition and was lent for this purpose by Mrs. Elsie Utteridge.

"So again we called upon Mr. Le-Strange and he still refused to grant any land in Old Hunstanton, 'But I will grant you a site in New Hunstanton.'

Thus a piece of land was given as near to the old village as possible. At that time it was a cornfield, with a cart road or lane through, with grass growing on either side of the road. No houses in what is called Austin

Street. The corn was cut and an iron hut erected in six weeks. My dear wife was then very busy writing begging letters for contributions - and not without success.

The Opening Day was grand, sunny and bright. A marquee was erected in front upon the grass but it was too small to accommodate the large number of people gathered for tea, so the overflow seated themselves upon the grass and bank.

The Jermyn family was of great help to us at this time, so the tea was taken for the most part in the open after which the Opening Service and we all had a grand time.

Some of those present, as far as memory goes, were Rev. Jenkins, Chairman of the District, Rev. W. Dent of London, Rev. Clapham of London, Rev. D.W. Barr, Mr. Jermyn and many local friends, and many from King's Lynn. There was great rejoicing when it was announced that the chapel was opened free of debt.

Thus commenced our service at Hunstanton. Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, afternoon school at 2.30, evening service at 6.30. Mr. C. Smith and myself were made Super of Sunday School and Society Stewards.

In early 1889, Gipsy Rodney Smith held a mission. A prayer meeting was held every night for a week before he came, asking for the work of God to prosper. It was then that Mr. Bourman and many others joined us and added to our numbers. Many young men and women left for other parts of the country and even to labour for God in other parts of the world.

My house was open for all who came to conduct services - either Minister or Laymen - thus we had the Gipsy for 10 days.

At the close of the year, in September, Rev. D.W. Barr left us and the Rev. Thomas was appointed to the circuit - a very good and clever man, but an invalid. I had on more than one occasion to take the service for him.

He remained in the circuit for two years. Rev. D.W. Barr went to Lynn for one year, then in Sept. 1891 took charge of his new circuit at Woodford in E. London.

Following Rev. Thomas was Rev. Lewis Smith, who took charge of the circuit here, and we had some grand times with him and the foundation of the new chapel was laid.

All through, I trace the wonderful hand of God, guiding and leading us."

THE "TIN HUT"

Incredibly, the Iron Chapel (herein after called the "tin hut") was built in 6 weeks by Alf William Pocock, Iron Building Works, Chelsea. The documents are dated 1 May, '89.

There was nothing shoddy or mean about it - the timber was to be of good quality, the galvanized iron of the best, coated evenly with "Silesian Spelter." The walls and roof were to be lined with 5/8" match boarding, grooved, tongued and beaded and of good quality. Felt lining, doors, windows, floor joists and sleepers, gutters, painting, staining - everything was detailed and to be of best quality - and all for £170 nett, 75% to be paid during the work and 25% to be paid on completion.

The big joy at the opening was that the new church was free of debt. What was extraordinary about this financial effort was that, at the same time, another chapel at Dersingham was built and became the home of a lively Sunday School and Band of Hope. Chapels at Heacham and Docking were also repaired and renovated at this time.

In 1889 the "tin hut" was immediately put to good use:-

Services Sunday morning - 11 o'clock

Services Sunday evening - 6.30

Sunday School afternoon - 2.30

The Superintendents of the Sunday School were Mr. C. Smith (of the lighthouse) and Mr. Thomas Hill (of the notebook.) Miss Smith was in charge of the singing.



THE PERMANENT METHODIST CHAPEL

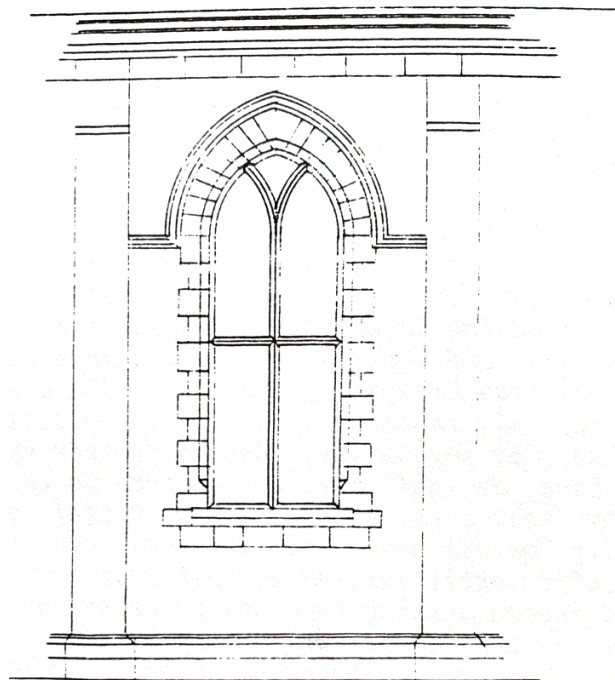
The euphoria and romance of building a chapel in Hunstanton wore off when it was discovered that the "tin hut" did not meet the growing needs or worthily represent the work done. Heat, draughts and overcrowding were grim realities.

Recorded in Mr. Hill's notebook is a story concerning the "tin hut," Thomas Hill himself and Mr. Barr, the father of Rev. Barr.

"Just after mission, a severe gale took the roof off while the Minister was preaching. I went home for ropes and weights while Mr. Barr climbed on top to hold on to what he could until I came back. One can only imagine the noise and commotion during morning service."

Understandably - and not only because of that incident - it was decided to make preparations for the building of a permanent church immediately. The foundation stones were laid (and at the side of the porch there can be seen a stone laid by Rev. Barr, with date.)

The building was to be comfortable, commodious and worthily representative of the Methodist Church, being modelled on the Wesley Hall, Newmarket. However, one alteration was requested and granted. Mr. Le-Strange, who was still taking an avuncular interest in the chapel, wanted the design of the side windows altered - it has to be said that there is considerable merit in the design.



*Mr Le Strange would feel obliged
if you can alter the side windows
as per this tracing*

W. J. G.

A very few years later, sufficient money had been raised to start the building, which was to cost £1,325:8:6½d. The builders were William Jarvis, Market Square, King's Lynn.

The Methodist Church, Austin Street, Hunstanton was opened on June 15th, 1896. The sum of £950 had been raised and (for some unexplained reason) £100:6:10d was deducted so that, at the opening, the debt on the actual building was £275:1:8½d, and a further £100 to the Wesleyan Chapel Commissioners. Of course, a little more was needed to make the chapel usable and comfortable. 280 cane-bottomed chairs, described as "free seats" were used until about 1955. The total cost of the buildings and fittings was £1,717:6:7d.

This is not the place for too detailed an account of how the money was raised but every donation, large and small, is recorded in the Trust Accounts Book, held in the church safe. One notices that the Trustees did not have the benefit of very large sums donated. Nearly the whole of the money was accumulated by many people giving small amounts - 10/6's, 2/6's - all were given with love, accepted gratefully and recorded faithfully.

There follows a letter concerning the loan of £100:-

To the Secretary of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee

"Dear Sir,

The Wesleyan Chapel Committee having advanced to us a loan of £100 repayable in ten years by half yearly instalments of £5 and having paid us a grant of £50 and we also having received a grant of £200 from the Extension Fund in order to the creation of a fund of £1,767:6:7d to be applied in the creation of the Wesleyan Chapel Trust property of Hunstanton in the Hunstanton Circuit and the said fund of £1,717:6:7d having been raised and applied accordingly, we hereby engage that the amounts required to meet the said instalments shall not be borrowed and that until the said loan be repaid, no charge shall be brought on the Trust Estate by any annual deficiency of income or, unless by the consent of the Committee, by any outlay. And we further engage as far as we have, or shall have any control on the said Trust property that a reasonable system of seal rents shall be carefully maintained, that the Trust property shall be kept sufficiently insured against loss by fire, that the surplus income arising from the property shall be devoted to, either the support and extension of the work of God in our own circuit and neighbourhood, or in aid of our conexional Institutions and that the Trustees shall subscribe annually at least 5/- to the Wesleyan Chapel Fund.

The Trustees declare that there is now no debt on the said Chapel Trust on any account whatever, except the Committee's loan aforesaid and the sum of £260 including £140 capitalized value of Ground Rent.

Dated this Day 4th July 1899.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

*Alfred Jermyn
Thomas Hill
Arthur J. Scott
Thomas Leggett
Rob Patrick
Frederick Green
Wm. Dodman
Geo. Goodwin*

There is nothing new to a Methodist in finding that his chapel is in need of money! There follows a copy of a letter from Rev. R.H. Higson, imploring the congregation to make good a shortfall of £26 by donating 208 half-crowns.

Statement of Accounts,
of
Contract, extras and Commissions
for the
Erection of New Wesleyan Chapel
Huxstanton.

		£	s	d.
To amount of contract as per Agreement		1200	0	0
Extras as per Bill.		125	8	6½
		<u>£1325</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6½</u>
<u>Credit</u>				
By cash on account by instalments	£950.0.0			
Deductions as per Bill	400.6.10			
	<u>£1050.6.10</u>	<u>£1050</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
	Bal. due.	<u>£275</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8½</u>

William Jarvis
 Market St
 June 15th 96 Linton

"Hunstanton,
Norfolk.

May 30th, 1899.

Dear Sir,

You will remember that a few days ago I wrote you respecting a special effort we were making here to materially reduce the debt on our New Wesleyan Church, and I ventured to ask a large number of friends all over the country by a donation of half a crown to help us to complete our scheme of raising £176 by means of a Bazaar this Whitsuntide.

Well, the Bazaar has been held, and, with one exception, it has proved the biggest success in the way of Bazaars we have ever enjoyed since Hunstanton became a Circuit. All the same, we have only cleared £150 and still require £26 to enable us to claim the Connexional grants and close the Building accounts.

I thought, if you only knew this, you would be glad to help in giving the finishing touch to a work which has engaged the attention and energy of our little Church of 33 Members for the last 5 years. 208 half-crowns will do it.

Perhaps I ought to say how much obliged I have felt to those 25 friends who have responded to my last letter and who sent me £5.14s.6d. and especially for their words of kindly encouragement. I feel sure that if the friends of Seaside Methodism could only realize how vigorous a little cause this is, and how hopeful is its future, they would not hesitate to respond - each one of them - to the full measure of their strength.

Yours very sincerely,

R.H. Higson,
Minister."

Amount realized by Subscriptions last year	£264
Amount realized by Bazaar this year	£150
Amount still required	£26
	<hr/>
	£440

(On a different point, please notice that in 1899 the number of members is 33.)

Did the Rev. Higson get his half-crowns? He may have done, but as the story unravels you will find we are not out of the wood yet!

During these years from the building of the "tin hut" to 1899, the work of the Christian community had been unremitting.

For instance, in the Sunday School in 1893, there are twelve teachers and sixty scholars, the first Superintendent being Mr. C. Smith (of the lighthouse.) The average attendance for morning and afternoon were thirty five and forty four respectively. Five older children were also Society members, nine were on trial for membership and ten children were in Junior Society Classes. The children raised 12/4 for missionary collections. The cost of the Sunday School to the church was £1:10:0d for a year, but this did not include the cost of the Sunday School Treat (of happy memory!) The cost of Sunday Schools to the whole circuit, including treats, was £29:8:2d.

In the following years the numbers of teachers and scholars remained fairly constant, reaching a peak in 1896.

The Society also prospered. In 1918 there were 45 members and a steady increase is shown throughout the 1920's, several leaders are named in the Circuit Schedule Book - Miss Noble, Mrs. White, Miss Chilvers, A.J. Scott, C.V. Sjolander, H.H. Whiting, Mrs. Ruckledge, Miss Adams, etc.

During this time, Public Collections supported Sunday Schools Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Connexional Institution, General Chapel and Education. Although many good causes were being supported by the tolerant congregation and although the All-inclusive Fund was generously supported, it seems that many of the churches in the circuit were still in debt. There is an impassioned plea from the Rev. Frank H. Pritchard that a sale of work to be held in September, at Hunstanton, should be well supported.

*"Wesley Lodge,
Hunstanton.*

June 1st, 1921.

Dear Friend,

This letter concerns the business of our Church and Circuit. I hope you will keep it by you for reference.

The support given to the "All Inclusive Fund" has been most generous. Provided the present scale of giving is maintained until the end of the year (September 30th,) the Fund will suffice to meet all current expenses, local circuit and connexional.

As we anticipated and announced when launching this scheme of finance, a Sale of Work will be necessary to supplement the income from offertories. While, of course, the amount realized by this Sale will be included in, and will complete "the one Fund," yet practically the whole of it will be available for the reduction of Trust debts.

We propose holding this Sale at Hunstanton towards the end of September, and I know I can count on your keen interest, hard work and entire support.

The first object of the effort will be the clearing of the Docking Chapel debt - this now stands at £100. I need not plead for Docking. The old Sanctuary has stood for 100 years. The influence of its ministry has literally gone forth into all the world. One of its honoured sons - the Rev. H.W. Goodwin - has placed the whole Circuit under a great obligation by his recent ministry amongst us. We are all resolved that - come what may - in this its Centenary year the Docking debt shall disappear!

There remain the Trust debts at Hunstanton (£340) and at Heacham (£350.) These debts must be dealt with before we can hope to secure a second Minister. Why not tackle them at once? I don't suggest that we can clear the whole this year, but we can make a beginning! Let us get to work now. It is only in the redemption of debt that a sovereign has its full pre-war value! I want to be followed by two ministers! I want to see this most promising Circuit adequately staffed! Some of us dream of a great future before Methodism in North-West Norfolk ... and dreams are only realized by hard work - prosaic and unromantic!

So I need your help! Why not aim at getting £200? Why not be ambitious and unashamed - it is not for ourselves we ask! Get the interest and assistance of visitors. Refuse nothing - many visitors are glad to give old clothes, and in two or three places "Jumble Sales will follow the Bazaar!

Details of organisation can be left for a while. Meantime if you secure any cash contribution please forward it to one of the Circuit Stewards or to me.

My very hearty thanks for all that you will be able to do.

Yours very sincerely,

Frank H. Pritchard."

The letter deserved a better fate! History does not relate whether Rev. Frank Pritchard got his £200, but we do find that he was followed by only one Minister, the Rev. Sherwin Smith, M.A., B.D.

THE "PULPIT NOTICES" BOOK

The "Pulpit Notices" Book for the years 1924, 1925 and 1926 has survived in the church safe.

Regularly recorded are notices of Women's Missionary Sewing Circle (gentlemen sometimes invited for tea) and Mrs. White's Class Meeting, held at her house (Monday evening). Choir Practice, 8.30 p.m. Friday evening, becomes so well known and regular that it drops out of the notices!

All sorts of fund-raising, for good causes, went on in these years, while the collections for "*the work of God in this Church and Circuit*" varied in amounts between about £3 and about £7 (of course one must remember the difference in the value of money between then and now.)

There seems to have been a weekday evening service during the winter, giving way to various meetings and Bible Study groups in the summer.

On Monday, 10th November, 1924 there is a first mention of the "Young Men's Circle," all young men cordially invited and there is a first mention of the "Wesley Guild" - all those interested were invited. A membership card survives among Mr. & Mrs. Frammingham's memorabilia. It was of special interest to the writer, who has many happy memories of the Wesley Guild in Stratford, E.15, and also in Salisbury, Wilts. In Hunstanton, as in the chapels of her memories, the evenings consisted of social, literary and musical evenings, taking turns with study and devotional evenings. Just as an example of the sort of evening, there was a title "Mountain Scenes from the Bible" which has endless possibilities. By November, 1924, the Wesley Guild has become the "Young People's Guild" but, in 1950, the name reverts to the "Methodist Guild" and the writer's recollection from Stratford and Salisbury is that people of all ages enjoyed the evenings.

On November 23rd, 1924, there is notice of a circuit meeting for the discussion of "Methodist Union," and on December 24th, 1924, at the Quarterly Meeting, all eligible members were invited to take tea and afterwards vote on this important matter. (The actual union of all Methodists took place in 1932.)

In connection with church unity, it is worth noting that differences between ourselves and the Unionists seem to have been resolved. The Christmas Day service in 1924 was at the Union Church, our Rev. Sherwin Smith being the preacher. A Watchnight Service at Austin Street was also a shared occasion, the Rev. A. Bourne taking part in the service and all Unionists invited.

Methodists have always been at the forefront of the ecumenical movement and present day relations with all the churches in the area are of the most cordial.

CHAPEL CLEANING

The volunteers who make our chapel gleam and shine may be interested in that document dated 1923 detailing the chapel cleaner's duties. Item 3, forbidding tips, and item 9, making a pleasant manner obligatory are specially noteworthy, and all for 10/- a week, with the occasional extra payment!

"WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH, HUNSTANTON

Chapel Keeper's Duties - 1923

1. *That the Chapel and Vestries shall be kept thoroughly clean, mats and all other moveable coverings of floors and pulpit shall be well shaken every week, windows cleaned inside and out when required.*
2. *That the Chapel and Vestries shall, in addition to general scrubbing and cleaning, have an annual cleaning and scrubbing all through, for which an addition of thirty shillings (30/-) shall be paid to Chapel Keeper for extra labour employed.*
3. *That the Chapel Keeper, his wife or assistant, shall be in attendance at all Tea Meetings to assist in preparing tea and shall wash up and clear everything away used for each tea. The Stewards shall pay him 2s.6d. for each tea, to whom alone he shall look for all payments.*
4. *That the Chapel shall be kept at not less than 60 degrees of heat, and in order to do this during cold weather the fire shall be lighted on Saturday continuing this on Sunday morning or not as the weather shall make necessary and expedient.*
5. *That condition No. 4 shall apply to all Public Meetings Sundays and Week-days.*
6. *That the ground and paths round chapel shall be kept clean and in tidy order, grass cut and hedges trimmed.*
7. *That the large and small schoolrooms shall be kept clean and dusted, also windows, and that they shall be thoroughly washed and cleaned four times a year.*
8. *That the Chapel Keeper shall always be in attendance at every Public Service or Meeting Sundays and Weekdays.*
9. *That at all times the Chapel Keeper, and those with him or for him, shall pleasantly attend to the Chapel Stewards or the Minister's instructions.*

10. *That for the above and all work named a remuneration of Twenty-six pounds (£26) per year shall be paid, with the extras as mentioned in Paragraphs 2 and 3.*
11. *These conditions are subject to one month's notice on either side being given.*

February 1923

*Charles Fredk. Riches
John Carr
Alfred John Wyer
Feb 8. 1923"*

Now, a note from Wallace Ward's researches. Caretakers in the early days were Mr. & Mrs. Wyer, parents of Mr. Ernest Wyer, a local businessman; Mrs. Elsie Buxton, Elsie Utteridge's mother, who performed the duties for 28 years, then Miss MacGregor, known as "Miss Mac", who seems to have had a rise to £50 per year! A very strict lady - woe betide anyone who broke a cup or plate!

A VISIT FROM HQ

But what has happened to all this care and attention to detail by 1949?

*"O wad the powers the giftie gie us
To see ourselves as others see us."*

A first visit was paid to Hunstanton by the Rev. E. Benson Perkins, General Secretary of the Department for Chapel Affairs. It was his business to report on the condition of the buildings and the state of the site of our chapel.

A batch of letters was found by Mr. & Mrs. C. Frammingham in their memorabilia.

*"The Methodist Church
Department for Chapel Affairs*

24th October, 1949.

Dear Mr. Carty,

It was a real pleasure to visit Hunstanton and to see for the first time our property there and something of our work. The gathering on Saturday night I thought was particularly good. It was unfortunate that the weather interfered so seriously with the congregation last evening.

I hope you did not think that I was too severe in what I said about the property, but I was frankly depressed by the position as I found it. The church itself is quite attractive, and with a few alterations could be made very good indeed; it is rather the schoolroom and round about it. However, as you said on the telephone, I think it is a very good thing that these matters should be raised and I am enclosing with this a letter to the trustees. I thought if I put it in this way in a letter for you to read, then you can make whatever comments you like to the trustees but at any rate the responsibility is mine.

I am also enclosing with this a copy of our book "Serving the Church". I am not sure whether you have seen it but, if not, I am quite sure you would find some part of the section which deals with 'Caring for the Churches' particularly applicable, and it might help you to call the attention of the trustees to certain of the things that are said there.

I do hope that Mrs. Carty will soon be quite well again. I was very happy with Mr. and Mrs. Watson and they were good enough to help me to get off early this morning so that I was able to keep my appointment at midday here in Manchester.

Yours sincerely,

E. Benson Perkins.

The Rev. W.G. Carty,
17 Austin Street,
Hunstanton,
Norfolk."

"The Methodist Church
Department for Chapel Affairs

24th October, 1949.

My dear Friends,

The Methodist Church, Hunstanton

For the first time I have had the privilege of visiting Hunstanton and preaching and speaking in your church. I greatly valued the opportunity and enjoyed meeting a number of the friends. As you would expect, because of my responsibilities in the Department for Chapel Affairs, I do take particular notice of our buildings, and quite frankly I did have somewhat of a shock. It led me to think over the whole position and to send this letter to you by way of the Superintendent, putting to you various considerations and suggestions.

To a stranger it seems rather odd that the prominent corner of the site is occupied by an iron semi-permanent building, while the church is less prominent. Whatever the intention I am told that this has its advantages in that the church is not affected, as it would otherwise have been, by the noise of the traffic on the main road. It does mean, however, to the stranger approaching it along that road, the first building he sees is the schoolroom and it was there I was really shocked. What I saw, as indeed what any visitor would see, was a corrugated iron building, badly needing paint and looking very shabby and neglected. In and around the door of the schoolroom there were bottles and other rubbish. The grass and shrubbery around was badly overgrown, and at the corner stood a Notice Board that had no bill on it at all and was simply an eye sore. The whole place had the air of being uncared for. May I put it to you in this way, that if I had been a stranger to Hunstanton looking for a Place of Worship I should not have been attracted to our Methodist Church after seeing the neglected schoolroom, the rubbish, and the general

picture. It would not have suggested to me a church where the people responsible had any love for the House of God.

Then, too, I found that the lavatory accommodation was very unsatisfactory. The only approach was across the back of the chapel, treading over thick grass and briars, and the one convenience in the church building was locked up with no one having the key or knowing where it was. There was no place where one could have a wash, so far as I discovered. As I have said, the church itself is attractive but there, too, certain changes are urgently necessary.

I am not saying this by way of merely uttering a complaint, but in order, first of all, to convey to you the effect it had upon me, and then in order that I may make certain practical suggestions.

The Schoolroom

I understand that the question of having the schoolroom painted outside has been considered. My enquiries elicited the information that a contractor quoted £140, and that an alternative scheme to paint the schoolroom with voluntary labour did not come to any effect.

I have to point out to you that if the painting is not done not only will the building suffer but the Church will be involved in much greater expense. It needs immediate action to protect the building. Rust is already evident, and the woodwork is open to serious damage by the weather. The only way to keep a building of this kind in effective use is constantly to repaint at stated periods.

I realise that £140 is a serious consideration, but, as I have said, it will mean a lot more unless it is done at once. The Chapel Committee funds are not available for grants to assist in painting, decorating and general maintenance. These are supposed to be carried by the Trust themselves. However, if the trustees will undertake this work I will try to secure from a special source a grant of a quarter of the cost. My condition is that the matter is undertaken without delay. I think it ought to be done before we get into the middle of the winter.

The Surroundings

I gather that from time to time some of the members have cut back some of the overgrowth. One is very grateful for work of this kind, but something much more drastic is needed. Nothing lets down a building more than the neglect of the shrubs and growth. The hedge and

all the growth ought to be trimmed and cut down. If it is done now it will last through the winter, though of course it will want doing several times during the summer. This applies not only to the corner prominent to the road, but also to the rear of the building. I understand that some of the land at the rear is used by someone for gardening purposes. If so it ought to be kept in proper order. There is a tumbledown fence at the back of the church, and there is a lot of growth on the ground at the sides which ought to be cut away, and the whole place cleaned up. I do strongly press that this is done at once.

Notice Board

The Notice Board at the corner may be perhaps used occasionally but it ought never to be left with nothing on it, as it is at present. Either it should be covered with plain white paper pending another Notice, or the use should be made of the Wayside Pulpit posters. Alternatively a general notice about the Church and the times of Services could very well be put at that corner. It would be seen far more than the Board at the side of the church building. This, on the whole, I think is the better course. Certainly it ought not to be left as it is.

Lavatories

I understand that some difficulty has been encountered owing to the use by the general public. This, of course, should be avoided. All the lavatory accommodation should be made to lock up, but it should be unlocked and available whenever there are meetings there. There ought also to be a place where one can get a wash. It may be that there is such a convenience in the place that was locked up when I was there, but no one is able to open the door. The Conference itself has called attention to the unsatisfactory nature of accommodation of this sort and this is a point of real importance. Further, there ought to be some arrangement whereby a light is available at the rear of the church, and inside the lavatories.

The Church

The immediate task, I suggest, for the trustees is to deal with the lighting, and this could be done with comparative simplicity. The light over the Choir is entirely wrong. It puts the preacher into shadow and makes it extremely difficult to see the Bible. At the same time the congregation cannot see his face, as they ought to be able to do, clearly and distinctly. The light over the Bible is not really a satisfactory solution. What I suggest is that for the purposes of the choir there should be two lights, on either side of the

arch, but concealed. This would flood the apse with light for the organist and Choir, without there being any fitting apparent to the congregation. The central light should be brought forward and hang down slightly in front of the preacher. This need not be the same fitting that you have there, but something a little smaller but throwing light on the front of the pulpit. This, I am sure, would be a very great improvement and would make the place look still more attractive when it is lit up, without increasing the cost in the use of electricity.

Some time in the future I think the trustees might very well consider a re-arrangement of the interior. It is not a convenient or helpful thing for the preacher to have the choir seats all around him, as at present - nor is the accommodation really the best for the Choir. Putting it briefly my suggestion would be that the organ and choir should be brought down on to the floor of the church as the side of the Communion Rail, the organ against the wall, the choir sitting in front facing across the congregation sideways. Then I should take away the pulpit and platform and put the Communion Table in the apse. The present rostrum could then be reconstructed and made into a smaller pulpit, using the central part, and put on the side opposite the Choir and in front of the door from the vestry. This would modernise the church and greatly improve its appearance. Actually, of course, the design is intended for this kind of arrangement. If this were carried out it would make the church exactly the type that we are suggesting for the new churches to be built in the new housing areas throughout the country. I realise that this perhaps is not something you could undertake at once, but I am sure it ought to be kept in mind. Actually it would involve no new material and the cost would be incurred in the labour involved in carrying out this re-arrangement.

Let me say again that I hope the trustees will realise that I do want to be helpful and I am suggesting these changes with a view to improving the appearance and usefulness of our property for the purposes of the worship of the Church.

With all greetings and good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

E. Benson Perkins.

To The Trustees of the Methodist Church,
Hunstanton."

"Trustees Meeting held at Hunstanton Chapel on Monday, 31st October, 1949.

Present: Rev. W.G. Carty, Chairman, Mr. E.W. Wyer, Mr. Cox, Miss Johnson. The following leaders had been invited to attend for consultation: Mr. J. Fletcher, Miss Jean Wyer, Miss M. Whiting, Miss Matthew, Mr. King and Mr. Broadbent.

In the unavoidable absence of the secretary, the minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read.

Reported that Mr. Rogers was willing to undertake the 'boiler' work and the weeding, etc., at the inclusive sum of 10/- per week while fires were required.

Complaints were reported that the school-room had not been opened on several occasions for the Clinic. Recalled that Caretaker received 12/6 a week Winter, 10/6 Summer. When the question of paying her insurance came up, it was decided to pay her 12/6 all the year round on the understanding that she paid her own insurance. Agreed not to reduce her pay because she was giving up the boiler work.

Asked that chapel should be opened in good time on Sunday mornings.

The Rev. W.G. Carty read the letter sent by the Rev. E. Benson Perkins, M.A., on the state of our Church, schoolroom and surrounding ground. A full consideration was given to his criticisms, suggestions and offer of help.

Proposed by Mr. Wyer and seconded Miss Johnson that the trustees: (a) explore possibility of doing outside painting of schoolroom with voluntary labour; and (b) meanwhile and at once to invite tenders for doing the work.

Mr. Wyer undertook to enquire if the surveyor, Mr. Pallister, would draw up a specification of the work required to be done.

It was agreed that during the damp weather, especially as we were near the sea, the painting should be done in the Spring. Now it was judged that to paint would be waste of money. The trustees were quite willing to get it done as soon as possible, but could not brush aside this judgment. It was agreed to thank Mr. Perkins for his offer of a grant of the quarter of the cost and to agree to this modification of his condition that the matter should be done without delay.

Re. lighting over choir and pulpit, Miss Johnson proposed and seconded by Mr. Cox that this should be done.

The meeting closed with prayer."

"22 Greevegate,
Hunstanton

Dec. 15th

Rev. Carty

Dear Mr. Carty,

I regret that I am unable to be present this evening in view of a previous engagement, but I would say since the Rev. Benson Perkins' visit and letter, some of us have been getting together to see what we can do in the way of repainting, etc., especially as there is a likelihood of a grant towards it.

A former quotation for repainting the schoolroom was about £140, Mr. King has been thinking this over and has offered to do it for half that is to provide the paint and do the painting himself for £70, this is for the outside.

This can only be done when the weather is suitable, in the meantime he has suggested that the inside should be done, we providing the paint and he will paint it for £50, this is a very generous offer in view of what it costs for labour today.

The colour scheme proposed is brown to window ledge height and a warm cream all above this, the back room to be done as well.

Outside there is a leakage near the front porch and top ridge these I think should be done and personally I should like to see the old steeple removed at the same time, an approximate estimate for these is not more than £15.

The outside colour suggested is roof red as before, brown below rain gutters, windows cream we feel these colours will be more in keeping with the church than green as before.

This is the general outline of what is proposed, I have no doubt other members who have been present will fill in details to any questions.

Yours sincerely,

E. Wyer."

"Wesley Lodge,
17 Austin Street,
HUNSTANTON, Norfolk.

26th January, 1950.

The Revd. E. Benson Perkins, M.A.,
MANCHESTER 1.

Dear Mr. Perkins

The Methodist Church, Hunstanton

With reference to your letter dated 24th October and my reply of 3rd November, 1949, you will be glad to hear that the following scheme has been adopted:-

Inside school labour	50.0.0.
Inside school paint	32.0.0.
2 lights (chapel) outside at rear	6.0.0.
Repairs	15.0.0.
Outside painting	70.0.0.
	<hr/>
	£173.0.0.
	<hr/>

This scheme has been made possible by our Chapel Steward, who has undertaken to do the work.

He has started the inside of the schoolroom. The sides and roof have been scraped and washed; two flat coats of good paint are being put on, and the third coat is to be a glossy paint. The beams are being painted brown, and the roof and sides an attractive cream colour; so many feet up from the floor the walls are being painted brown. Already it can be seen how bright and attractive the room is becoming. Probably with an outside estimate the work would cost in the region of £250. The hours of labour are not being counted; in fact, the work, although we are paying him £50, is a work of love. His wife is helping him.

He is going to start painting the outside as soon as possible, and will be doing it at half the quoted price.

The trustees hope you will see your way clear to give them the help you suggested. One of them said, 'It might be a good idea to ask Mr. Perkins to come down and see the improvement when the work is finished.' This will indicate to you the confidence of the trustees that a good job is being done.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

W.G. Carty."

*"The Department for Chapel Affairs.
8th March 1950.*

Dear Mr. Carty,

Hunstanton

We are very glad indeed to have received your letter informing us of the work which has been done on the School at Hunstanton on the line suggested by Mr. Perkins after his visit. We note that the total cost has been £173 and in accordance with the promise made by Mr. Perkins we are sending herewith a cheque for £45, being grant from a special source. No receipt is necessary all you need to do is to endorse the back of the cheque.

We are very glad indeed that this work has been carried out and we hope that it will help to bring about a new lease of life in the Church. Mr. Perkins would have been very glad to see the building after renovation, but as you will appreciate he is so busy that there is no chance of him coming to Hunstanton for some considerable time. He hopes that the other matters mentioned in his letter are being attended to.

Yours sincerely,

Albert Hearn.

*Rev. W.G. Carty,
Hunstanton."*

Poor little "tin hut!" Erected with so much pride and pleasure in 1889! Retained long after its pull-down date because of the vigorous work and many activities of Hunstanton Methodist Church. Perhaps the Rev. E. Benson Perkins could have made more allowance for the fact that there had been two World Wars during the life of the tin hut! After all, the Second World War had ended only four years previously! But he was only doing his job, reporting what he saw - rust, decay, neglect - and, to be fair to him, his criticisms were constructive and contained an offer of financial help.

The Trustees, far from taking offence, set to work to see what could be done. The whole incident reflects so much credit on all parties, and is of such intrinsic interest, that they are included in toto.

THE 1950'S AND 1960'S

It must have been heaven to be alive and young and an attender at Austin Street Methodist (or any other church in the circuit) in these years.

Many programmes of the "Annual Methodist Youth Festival" have survived - every imaginable skill was catered for - Country Dancing, Bible Reading, Music, Drama, Poetry, Reading and Writing, Cookery, Handicrafts, Needlework - there was something for everyone. In 1955 there were 800 entrants and in 1957 nearly a thousand. Taking part were Sunday Schools, uniformed organisations, Youth Clubs and individuals.

The Sunday School, which met morning and afternoon, was very much a thriving concern. Mr. Charles Frammingham was appointed Superintendent in 1962 and continued for an astonishing 27 years. His wife, Betty, and their friend, Miss Jean Parton, were every bit as involved and they retain many happy memories of their work. Their pupils also retain happy memories and many letters of appreciation have survived. One which must have given Mr. & Mrs. Frammingham great pleasure was from Nurse Helen Potter, who became a life-long Christian as a result of the guidance she received. Highly qualified, she worked as a nurse only part-time in order to devote the rest of her time to training other nurses in various Christian duties based on her present church in Bishopsgate. Helen was particularly interested in leading Bible Study groups and one wonders whether she first became interested through the Scripture Examinations which were part of the curriculum for Methodist Sunday Schools.

Does anyone remember Richard Pinder? He brought honour to this church by gaining first prize in the national interdenominational competition! The present writer never gained anything approaching that eminence but she, and a great many of her friends, did well in the Scripture Examinations and gained a knowledge and love of the Bible which has never left them - Authorized Version, of course, as befits an old lady!

It is difficult to include all the stories in a continuous narrative, but some just cannot be excluded. Mr. Walter Thompson sent a story about the "Big Freeze" of 1962. The Wash was frozen over and Lincolnshire and Norfolk were joined as never before or since! Mr. Thompson and the Rev. S.R. Holt kept the coke-fired boiler burning and the church warm. At high tide, the icebergs could be heard from the High Street, crashing into each other.

Walter also sends a nice story of Rev. Edwin de Jersey Horne, O.B.E., who was a supernumerary Minister when Rev. John Winn died. Walter says, "*He was a grand old man, chaplain with Gen. Allenby when he marched into Jerusalem in the First World War.*" But what Walter really remembers is that Mr. Horne dictated the speed of the Lord's Prayer, whether he was in the pulpit or not. "*When in the pulpit, it was slow and stately, but when he was in a pew, the prayer went like an express train!*"

Does Charlie Frammingham remember a friend, Ian Mutton, who lodged with the Rev. John Winn? Ian worked for Barclays' Bank at that time but later was ordained and went to work in South Africa - Mr. & Mrs. Softley were to meet him there. The point of this tale, however, is to remind Charlie of the concert party that he, Ian and Brian Hinton formed. Ian did comedy and monologues, Charlie and Brian formed the band. The big concert was at King's Lynn Town Hall where they performed in aid of Hungarian Relief!

What happened to the "Young Men's Circle" of 1924? In 1967, there is notice of a newly-formed "Men's Fireside" to meet fortnightly. There were 15 men at that meeting and they enjoyed a talk by Mr. E. Wyer on the "History of Hunstanton." In 1969 the "Fireside" was still going strongly, but the Minister had to apologise to the "Women's Fellowship" because the "Fireside" merited a mention in the weekly notices, while the "Women's Fellowship" did not. He amended the situation by putting in the Notices that the "Women's Fellowship" always met at 3 p.m. on a Wednesday, while the men needed constant reminding - a true "Women's Lib" apology.

Wallace Ward discovered that, during this decade, the interior of the church took on a new look! A Yarmouth church fitted out their premises with chairs, the pews becoming redundant. Our chairs were becoming shabby and unsafe and the gift of the pews was gladly accepted!

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL HALL

In the early 1960's the Rev. S.R. Holt and his wife suggested an all-out effort be made to get the money to build a permanent School Hall. (Sadly, when it came to fruition, they were not able to be present at the ceremony.)

In October, 1966, Rev. Albert Fairhurst edited a first issue of a monthly newsletter. Among more ordinary meetings he suggested a Candlelight Carol Service (candles to be collected from here, there and everywhere.) Six Monday evenings were set aside for making gifts to be sold for the Building Fund, which at this time stood at £2,000. A very early fund-raising effort was a concert by the Wakeland Singers, programme 2/6, and in April, 1967 the Building Fund was at £2,220:17:8d.

It was about this time that the Trustees felt they could advise the Department of Chapel Affairs that they were willing to accept the Department's proposal for a substantial building more in keeping with the Church.

In May, 1967, the Building Fund received an unusual gift. A friend in Ringstead offered his own corrugated iron hut, to be sold in aid of the fund - *"Wood interior, light fittings and plug installed, size 8'7" x 6'. Can be moved easily, let me know if you are interested."* They were, and it fetched £43.

This was followed by another unusual gift. An anonymous donor challenged the congregation to make a really good effort and offered 10/- for every £1 raised at the Spring Bazaar. £319:9:6d was raised in small amounts on cake stalls, groceries, hardware, teas, garden produce, etc. An unknown benefactor gave £135:19:0d to raise the total, and the original challenger was as good as his word - £168. The total was thus £487:9:6d, a really good effort!

In July, 1968, the Building Fund stood at £3,918.

By May/June, 1969 a meeting was called to consider tenders for the new School Hall. At this meeting the Trustees expressed their gratitude to the Department of Chapel Affairs and to the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust, both of whom had promised substantial amounts.

In late June, 1969, Rev. A. Fairhurst says, *"The day these notes are being typed, the School Hall is in process of demolition."* He speaks of happy memories over the years, but says, *"There can be no real heartache at the removal, since it is making way for a new building in which our work will be made more effective and of greater strength and variety."*

It must not be thought that at this time the Trustees were only thinking of fund-raising and material things. Great concern was felt that, during the six months when the "tin hut" was gone and the new hall not yet built, the Sunday School and Youth Club would have nowhere to meet. In fact, several meetings were held in private houses and it seems to have been "business as usual." In the December newsletter, 1969, the Rev. A. Fairhurst particularly thanked Mrs.

Parton and his own wife for their help in this matter.

In the same newsletter there was the following extract:-

"I write these notes after the Opening of the new Church Hall. We opened "free of debt" so far as the finances are concerned but very much in "debt" to so many people who have made this project possible. To the Joseph Rank Trust and the Department for Chapel Affairs; to many who have donated generously; to the Rev. and Mrs. Holt for the beginnings of the Scheme and to those who in many and different ways have made their contribution in time and money and ability. We are now in possession of a beautiful and extremely useful building which will enable our work and the work of the Circuit to be done more effectively. It is there to be used and we know that those who use it will have at the same time due regard for the premises. In future and to avoid any possible confusion, all dates including regular meetings, must be booked through Mr. I. Fovargue to be entered in the Church Diary. It is the earnest prayer of us all that God will continue to bless our endeavours and that we shall see a real growth in our work and witness."

Efforts for the Building Fund did not preclude other efforts - Overseas Missions, Home Missions, National Children's Homes, Christian Aid Week, "Help the Aged", Churchwork in India - all benefited from garden parties, sales, sponsored walks, direct donations, etc.

Then, in 1968, new hymn books were required, and also some new chairs for the choir. Gifts for hymn books and chairs amounted to £74:18:0d. Forty books with good strong covers were bought at 14/6 each, and 18 chairs at £2:10:0d each.

(On a slightly different point, I cannot find much information about the choir. Do any of my readers know anything - just for future reference?)

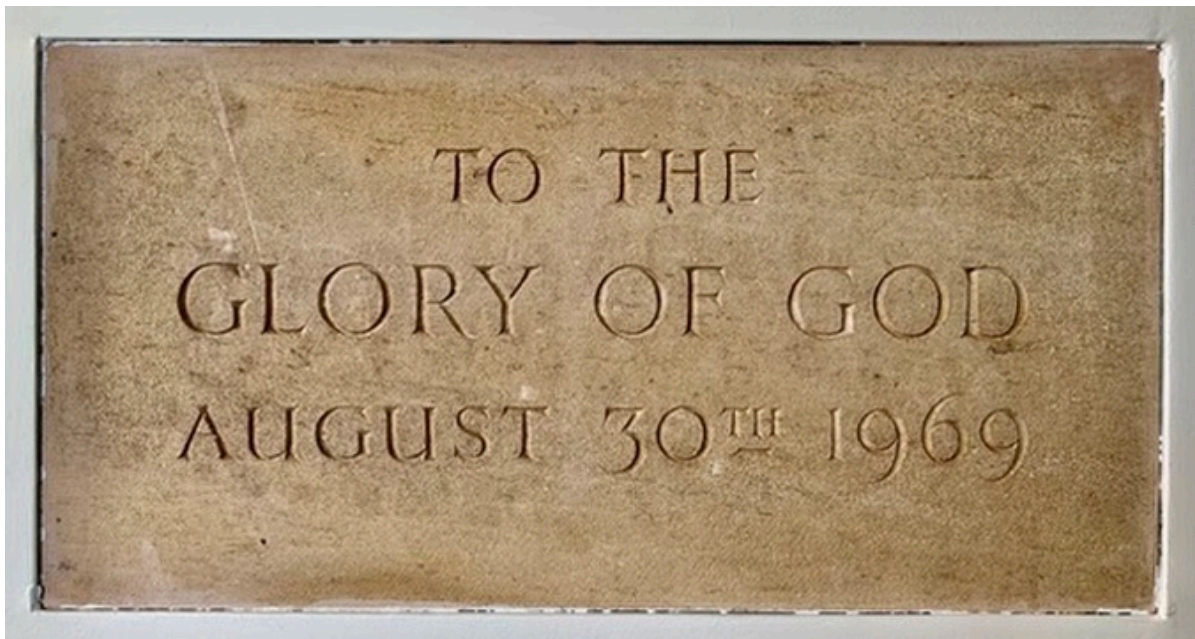
THE STONE LAYING

On Saturday, 30th August, 1969, the stone-laying took place.

The accompanying souvenir programme gives details of all who took part.

It was a nice idea to let all groups associated with the church lay a commemorative stone.

A few items to do with finance are dealt with on the back of the programme.



Sermon THE REV. HUBERT J. MARTIN.

HYMN.

GIVE me the faith which can remove
And sink the mountain to a plain;
Give me the child-like praying love,
Which longs to build Thy house again;
Thy love, let it my heart o'erpower,
And all my simple soul devour.

I would the precious time redeem,
And longer live for this alone,
To spend, and to be spent, for them
Who have not yet my Saviour known;
Fully on these my mission prove,
And only breathe, to breathe Thy love.

My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
Into Thy blessed hands receive;
And let me live to preach Thy word,
And let me to Thy glory live;
My every sacred moment spend
In publishing the sinners' Friend.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
With boundless charity divine;
So shall I all my strength exert,
And love them with a zeal like Thine;
And lead them to Thy open side,
The sheep for whom their Shepherd died.

Charles Wesley.

Benediction.



OUR BUILDING SCHEME.

WE rejoice that after many years of patient waiting and working, our hopes and prayers are now being fulfilled in the erection of a new School Hall at a cost of £9,500.

The present scheme has been made possible by a generous grant of £3,500 from the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust and a grant of £750 from the Department for Chapel Affairs.

Through the years many others also have made their contribution to this effort, and to all these the Trustees offer their most grateful thanks.

Resident Minister:

REV. ALBERT FAIRHURST,
17, Austin Street, Hunstanton.

Building Fund Treasurer:

MR. D. W. SEARLE,
11, Peldars Drive, Hunstanton.

Alfred T. Faber's Ltd., Bunkhead Press, Boston.

The Methodist Church.

AUSTIN STREET
HUNSTANTON

Souvenir Programme

of

NEW SCHOOL HALL STONE-LAYING CEREMONY

Saturday, 30th August, 1969

AT 2-30 P.M.

Officiating Ministers:

THE REV. HUBERT J. MARTIN, M.A., B.D.
(Chairman of the East Anglia District)

THE REV. ALBERT FAIRHURST (Superintendent Minister)

THE REV. BRIAN W. DAMS, M.A. (Circuit Minister)

Order of Service on the site of the new Hall

Sentences and Prayer THE REV. ALBERT FAIRHURST.

HYMN.

NOW thank we all our God,
With hearts, and hands, and voices,
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
Who wondrous things hath done,
And blessed peace to cheer us;
In Whom His world rejoices;
And keep us in His grace,
Who, from our mothers' arms,
And guide us when perplexed,
Hath bless'd us on our way
And free us from all ills
With countless gifts of love,
In this world and the next,
And still is ours to-day.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns
With Them in highest heaven,
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart, tr. by Catherine Winkworth.

Lesson, read by THE REV. BRIAN W. DAMS.

THE REV. ALBERT FAIRHURST will introduce those who
are to lay stones.

THE REV. HUBERT J. MARTIN
will lay a Commemorative Stone.

Stones will then be laid on behalf of the following:

HUNSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH TRUSTEES
HUNSTANTON AND DOCKING METHODIST CIRCUIT
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
THE YOUTH CLUB
THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
THE YOUNG WAVES
THE MEN'S FIRESIDE

As each stone is laid, these words will be used:
"To the Glory of God I lay this stone."

Prayer of Dedication THE REV. H. J. MARTIN.

THE DOXOLOGY.

The Congregation will then move into the Church for AN ACT OF WORSHIP.

Order of Service in the Church

HYMN.

PRAISE, Lord, for Thee in Zion waits;
Prayer shall besiege Thy temple gates;
All flesh shall to Thy throne repair,
Evening and morning hymn Thy praise,
And find, through Christ, salvation there.

Our spirits faint, our sins prevail;
Leave not our trembling hearts to fail:
O Thou that hearest prayer, descend,
And still be found the sinner's friend.
How blest Thy saints; how safely led;
How surely kept; how richly fed!
Saviour of all in earth and sea,
How happy they who rest in Thee!

Prayer THE REV. BRIAN W. DAMS.
H. F. Lyte.

The Lord's Prayer.

HYMN.

WE build our school on Thee, O Lord;
To Thee we bring our common
Touch. Thou our lips, and make them
If Thou art with us, Lord, we must be pure;
The loving heart, the helpful word, I need;
Be faithful friends and comrades sure:
With these, we pray, Thy Spirit may
Dear Lord, we pray, Thy Spirit may
Enrich and bless our school alway.
We work together in Thy sight,
We live together in Thy love;
Guide Thou our faltering steps aright,
And lift our thoughts to heaven above:
Dear Lord, we pray, Thy Spirit may
Be present in our school alway.

*(Copyright: reprinted with acknowledgements to the Trustees of The Fellowship Hymn-Book.)
Sebastian William Meyer, 1850-1946.*

Lesson, read by A SUNDAY-SCHOOL SCHOLAR.

Notices.

Offering on behalf of the School Hall Building Fund.

HYMN.

WHAT shall we offer our good Lord,
Poor nothings, for His boundless
grace?
Let Thy word richly in us dwell,
And let our gracious fruit remain.
O multiply the sower's seed!
And fruit we every hour shall bear,
Throughout the world Thy gospel spread,
Thy everlasting truth declare.
We all, in perfect love renewed,
Shall know the greatness of Thy power,
Stand in the temple of our God
As pillars, and go out no more.
Shall all stretch out their hands to Thee.

*August Gottlieb Spangenberg,
tr. by John Wesley.*



Methodist ceremony

The Rev H J Martin, chairman of East Anglia Methodist District, is pictured on Saturday laying the official commemorative stone for the new Methodist school hall at Hunstanton.

The hall is being built at a cost of £9,500 and is expected to be ready early next year.

The new building will replace one which has been in use for 80 years and was at one time the Methodist church. A special service in the church followed the ceremony.

THE OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL HALL

The long-awaited day arrived on Saturday, 17th January, 1970.

It was an impressive and moving ceremony of which the programme gives full details.

On the back page we learn the architect's name and the company to whom was entrusted the building.

The thanks are clearly sincere, not least to those members of the congregation who worked so hard and gave so generously.

School Hall Building Fund Accounts

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
	<u>£ s d</u>		<u>£ s d</u>
Subscriptions	703:18:04	Cost of Hall	8,528:18:08
Social Efforts	4,598:12:00	Architect	682:06:00
Stone-Laying	13:12:00	Other items	225:00:00
Opening	41:15:06	Furnishings	464:12:08
Sale of Old Hall	43:00:00		
Joseph Rank Trust	3,750:00:00		
Department of Chapel Affairs	750:00:00		
TOTAL	<u>9,990:17:10</u>	TOTAL	<u>9,990:17:10</u>

The Methodist Church.

AUSTIN STREET
HUNSTANTON

Opening of the NEW SCHOOL HALL

ON

Saturday, January 17th, 1970,

AT 3-0 P.M.

BY

Mr. PAUL BARTLETT LANG
(Secretary of the Joseph Rank
Benevolent Trusts).

Order of Service and Programme

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS are due to . . .

THE JOSEPH RANK BENEVOLENT TRUSTS and
THE DEPARTMENT FOR CHAPEL AFFAIRS

for their generous help.

The Architect—MR. CLIFFORD H. DANN, A.R.I.B.A.

The Builders—MESSRS. F. SMALLS & SON
(Hunstanton) LTD.

To a large number of people in many different parts
of the country and in other parts of the world who have
supported this venture.

To our own members and friends who have worked
hard and given generously towards the completion of this
work.

Alfred A. Taberner Ltd., Bankhead Press, Braxton.

The congregation having assembled in the Hall, the doors will be closed.

IN THE PORCH, the Architect will hand the key to Mr. Paul Bartlett Lang, who will formally open the School Hall after the Minister has knocked to gain admission.

The Opener together with the Ministers will then proceed to the places allotted to them at the front of the Hall.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION by the

REV. HUBERT J. MARTIN, M.A., B.D.
(Chairman of the East Anglia District).

LESSON read by the REV. BRIAN W. DAMS, M.A.
(Circuit Minister).

HYMN.

OUR Father, by Whose servants
Our house was built of old,
Whose hand hath crowned her children
With blessings manifold,
For Thine unfading mercies
Far-strewn along our way,
With all who passed before us,
We praise Thy name to-day.

The changeful years unresting
Their silent course have sped,
New comrades ever bringing
In comrades' steps to tread;
And some are long forgotten,
Long spent their hopes and fears;
Safe rest they in Thy keeping,
Who change not with years.

They reap not where they laboured,
We reap what they have sown;
Our harvest may be garnered
By ages yet unknown.
The days of old have dowered us
With gifts beyond all praise;
Our Father, make us faithful
To serve the coming days.

Before us and beside us,
Still holden in Thine hand,

A cloud unseen of witness,
Our elder comrades stand:
One family unbroken,
We join, with one acclaim,
One heart, one voice uplifting,
To glorify Thy name.

George Wallace Briggs, 1875-1950.
Copyright: reprinted with acknowledgments to the Headmaster of
Loughborough Grammar School.

MR. PAUL, BARTLETT LANG.

REV. HUBERT J. MARTIN.

REV. ALBERT FAIRHURST (Superintendent Minister).

Courtesies ... MR. S. A. CROWSLEY (Trust Secretary).

Greetings will be given by

REV. J. FERLEY (Vicar of St. Edmund's)
on behalf of other Churches.

MR. K. J. BOLTON, D.F.C., M.A. (Chairman of the Council).
MR. S. W. G. MACE (Circuit Steward).
MR. E. W. WYER (Trustee).

Collection for the Building Fund.

TEA - Two Shillings each.

in the Evening at 7.30

AT HOME

with

“THE MARINERS”.

Items :: Refreshments.

THE 1970'S TO THE PRESENT TIME

There followed a period of stability, when the work and activities of Hunstanton Methodist Church might be mirrored in most of the churches of the circuit.

However, perhaps there is room for one or two anecdotes before the serious narrative resumes.

The Rev. George Nunnerley writes, *"At our Welcome Meeting, I had an urgent call from a man threatening to commit suicide and asking for a Methodist Minister to help him. I had to leave in the middle of the meeting. Luckily Dr. Fielding and I were able to help the man through his crisis."*

He further writes, *"There was the occasion when Alec Callaby preached his trial sermon. That evening we had one of the worst gales in the town's history. Much damage was done and the pier was blown away! A few brave souls struggled through the wind and rain to be present at the service. It was alleged afterwards that it was Alec's sermon that blew the pier down."*

However, Alec must have surmounted this obstacle - he passed his test and became the Rev. Alec Callaby.

The Rev. A.H. Gledhill writes of an unusual Baptism Service. *"Stuart and Margaret Bellis suggested that their younger daughter be baptised on the beach. A good company assembled at the north end of the promenade and David Vale and Stuart carried out the baptism in the sea. The tide did not wait, however, and the service ended higher up the beach than it began."*

Does anyone remember the really imaginative Sunday School Anniversaries of those days? Or, were any of the present congregation involved in the Circuit Youth Weekends at Horstead? The weekend finished with worship at Coltishall Methodist Church. (But, what is that at 8 p.m. on Saturday evening - *"time to visit fish and chip shop?"* What fun they must have had! All at a cost of £3.50p, with a £1.50p subsidy from Sunday School or Youth Club (fish and chips extra!)

A programme of weekly meetings for one week in 1976 could almost as well be a programme for ten or twenty years later. There were fund-raising events, a Candlelight service and a "Carbecue" (please bring your own knife and fork!) and a summary of more regular events:-

Sunday:

Sunday School - alas, no afternoon school in 1976 and in 1995, unfortunately, none at all.

Church Worship - morning and evening.

Circuit Session - for young people, at 8 p.m.

Weekday:

Tuesday Adventure Club - run in 1976 by Muriel Nunnerley, with helpers Doreen Shel Drake, Flo Callaby, Mabel Grey, Margaret Bellis and others. This excellent club was restarted in the late 1980's by Julia Warnes and Gill Hall. Unfortunately, the club was disbanded in 1994. (Hunstanton has an ageing population - a retirement town! This is perhaps the reason for there being so few young people at the present time in the congregation.)

Wednesday Fellowship - still going fairly strongly under Doreen Ward's and Nellie Bates' able leadership.

Wednesday Group - A "Young Wives" group was formed in the days of Mrs. Fairhurst, and continued in Mrs. Nunnerley's time. However, in February, 1973, the "Hunstanton Churches Committee" had been formed to co-ordinate all the various women's groups and meetings in the area and, in September, 1973, the "Young Wives" became part of the wider group under the name of "The Wednesday Group." Doreen Ward has been a member since its inception and has held various offices, at present being the Chairman, Jean Broadway being the Treasurer.

The Property Committee was formed in 1978 to meet and discuss the best ways of keeping the buildings and furnishings in good repair. The committee, at first, consisted of Messrs. Fovargue, Buxton, Cable, Parton, Callaby, Hill, Bellis, Frammingham, Thompson, Mrs. Parton, Rev. Margaret Meakin and later Rev. Keith Ledson.

A great many things needed attention - new organ (old organ sold for £100), new carpet, new fences and repainting. In 1987 the heating in the church, hall and kitchen was considered unsatisfactory and a new system was under construction. The piano was found to have woodworm and a reconditioned one was bought for £500.

By now, Ernest Bates was the Property Secretary, and he brought considerable expertise to the job.

In 1989 it was decided that there were special needs for improvement in:-

- (i) the pulpit and communion area
- (ii) seating and heating
- (iii) balcony and vestibule area, including the front entrance
- (iv) extra toilet facilities

It was decided to apply to the Methodist Church Property Division in Manchester for advice, but meanwhile estimates for item (iv) were obtained. P.E. Wright of Sculthorpe estimated £9,256 which

with V.A.T. at 15%, would come to £10,644. The work was put in hand and, in 1991, the builder had been paid, but £1,200 still had to be found.

By 1990, the main work outstanding was repointing and improvements to the pulpit area and interior, the cost of these being in the region of £250 for the vestry floor, £50 for carpets and, in 1993, £1,000 for hardwood doors.

Towards all this was a bequest of £1,000 from Mrs. Hilda Grey's estate for alterations in the pulpit area, which was much appreciated. During these alterations, the redesigning of the pulpit area gave rise to an interesting piece of history. An old section of wood which was being replaced was discovered to be dated exactly 98 years ago!

The repointing of the outside brickwork was also carried out at a cost of £1,800 per wall. As this is being written, approximately £4,000 is still required to complete the payment.

It would be tedious to detail all the work that has been done to keep the property in order, but it must be correct to put in a "thank you" to Ernest Bates and present and previous committees and secretaries for all their devoted and conscientious work.

The reader was promised a journey from "'tin hut" to chapel with all mod. cons.' The last stage of the journey is nearly reached!

While the main work of the church is still going on in all spheres, the "Women's Fellowship" has been quietly beavering away to improve the amenities of the church. (Actually, this is only one part of their work - a great deal is done, through jumble sales [run by Gwen Parton,] garden parties, collections, etc., for all sorts of charities.)

The main money-spinners for improvements to our hall are the monthly lunches, run by Nellie Bates, who thanks Gwen and Fred Parton and many others for their help.

Nellie says, *"In 1990 when we began serving lunches, Mrs. Hilda Grey had a vision of fellowship over a meal, and we praise the Lord because she insisted we had the vision also and her prayers have been answered. Hilda financed the first twenty lunches, which was a great help."*

From March, 1990 to March, 1995, £4,435 had been raised and either spent on the kitchen or saved towards improvements to the church, hall and kitchen.

So much to thank God for! So many people have found it in their hearts to give generously and work hard. Where to begin? I shall follow Lewis Carroll's advice, "*Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end; then stop.*" In other words, I insert here a complete list of members and adherants.

HUNSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH
List of Members & Adherants - Allocated to Pastoral Visitors

Note : * denotes Adherent

Margaret Bellis - Pastoral Visitor # 10, Lincoln Street, Hunstanton
Christine Edmunds 34 Park Road, Hunstanton
Ernest Bates 33 Lighthouse Lane, Hunstanton
Nellie Bates " " " "
Wallace Ward 8 Ingleby Close, Heacham " "
Doreen Ward 7 Avenue Road, Hunstanton
Eva Wilson 40A Park Road, Hunstanton
Michael Warnes " " " "
Julia Warnes 38 Silfield Gardens, Hunstanton
Leslie Simms " " " "
Jenny Simms Belmont Nursing Home, Hunstanton
* Ada Bradbury 16 Crescent Road, Hunstanton
* Joan Topping

Pastoral Committee secretary

John Hall - Pastoral Visitor

Jack Dimmock 7 Peddars Close, Hunstanton
Winifred Dimmock 29 Redgate Heights, Lynn Road Hunstanton
* Jim Smith 20 Peddars Drive, Hunstanton
* Mary Harris 30 Chatsworth Road, Hunstanton
* Jack Harris " " " "
* Jean Sellwood c/o " " " "
* Heather Sellwood " " " "
* Alistair Young 14 Boston Square, Hunstanton
* Moya Young " " " "
* Bill See Belmont Nursing Home, Hunstanton

Gill Hall - Pastoral Visitor

Harold Spicer 7 Peddars Close, Hunstanton
June Spicer 8 Kelsey Close, Old Hunstanton
George Hill " " " "
Margaret Hill 14 Peddars Drive, Hunstanton
Mavis Johnson 1 Princess Drive, Hunstanton
Ken Mountain 5 Diana's Drive, Hunstanton
Jean Mountain " " " "
Mrs Fulcher Gorselands, Sandringham Road, Hunst'n
* Andrew Blake 12 St Edmunds Avenue, Hunstanton
* Margaret Blake " " " "

Stuart Bellis - Pastoral Visitor
Jim McCloy 10 Lincoln Street, Hunstanton
Ceal Cooper 11 Silfield Gardens, Hunstanton
Marjorie Cooper 14 Silfield Gardens, Hunstanton
* Cliff Harris-Green Flat 2, 58 Cliff Parade, Hunstanton
* Winifred Harris-Green " " " "

Charles Frammingham - Pastoral Visitor
Betty Frammingham 3 Cheyne Crescent, Heacham
Digby Frammingham c/o " " " "
Harold Saunders 63 Lyndhurst Court, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton
Anne Saunders Robin Hill, Heacham
Neville Hemmings " " " "
Doreen Hemmings 4 Ingleby Close, Heacham " "
* Dennis Broadway " " " "
* Jean Broadway " " " "
* Marjorie Raven Norfolk Lodge, Hunstanton

Nessie McCloy - Pastoral Visitor
Walter Thompson 11 Silfield Gardens, Hunstanton
Dorothy Thompson 57 Northgate, Hunstanton " "
Kathleen Softley 6 Astley Crescent, Hunstanton
* Miriam Walpole 34 Westcliff Court, Hunstanton

Gwen Parton - Pastoral Visitor
Fred Parton 24 Church Street, Hunstanton
Lestie Parton " " " "
c/o " " " "

Elsie Uttridge - Pastoral Visitor
Beverly Mussett 61 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton
Nicola Plant c/o " " " "
Geodge Rix 24 Belgrave Avenue, Hunstanton
Mary Rix " " " "
Phyllis Lake 9 Hamon Close, Old Hunstanton
Gordon Sheldrake 7 Lighthouse Close, Hunstanton
Doreen Sheldrake " " " "
* John Uttridge 61 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton
* Peggy Mason Neptune Guest House, Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton
* Ethel Dyer 8 Downs Road, Hunstanton
* Mrs Hamilton 1 Peddars Drive, Hunstanton

I must give a personal thank you to Elsie Utteridge, Dorothy and Walter Thompson and Betty and Charlie Frammingham for source material for this story, and to Beverly Mussett for her presentation of it.

In any church, work is done in many fields, but a church is so much more than the sum of its parts. At Austin Street, in all our worship, our fellowship meetings and our mission activities, there is warmth, friendship, fun, piety and love!

St. Paul shall have the last word:-

"And now abideth Faith, Hope and Love, these three, but the greatest of these is Love."

POSTSCRIPT

On behalf of the members and friends of Hunstanton Methodist Church, we would wish to express our sincere thanks to Miriam for this history of the church.

Everyone is thrilled by the style, the approach and the contents of this story of a much-loved building and its fellowship.

We are all so aware of the many hours of hard work, of interviewing, reading and writing to compile this story.

We record our gratitude and delight.

Thanks are also expressed to Mrs. Beverly Mussett for her typing and presentation of the manuscript.

Rev. David Bucktrout
Minister

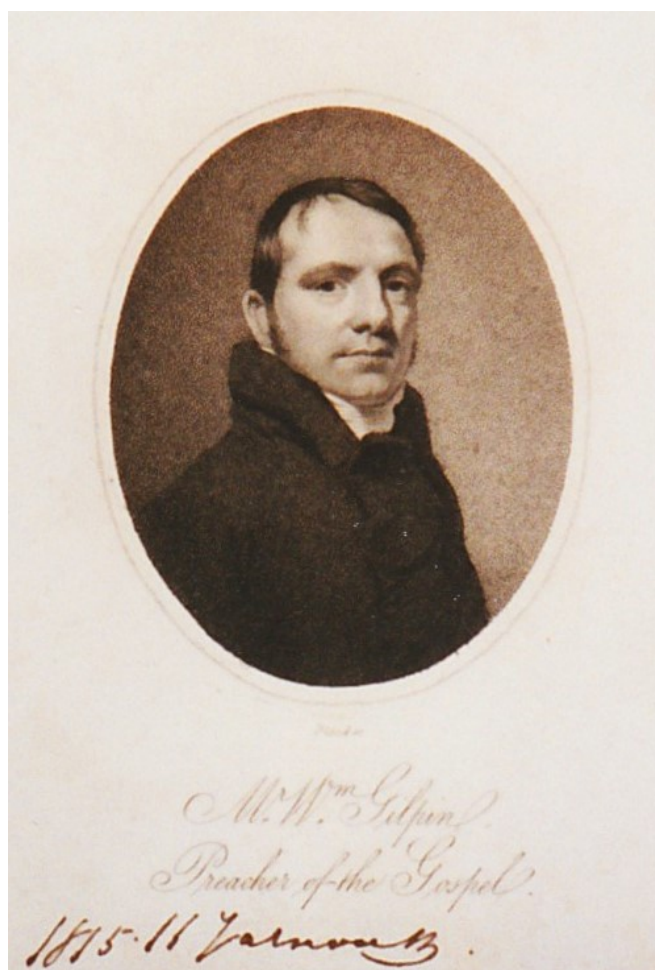
Mr. Wallace Ward
Senior Steward

Chapter 2: Earlier times

Miriam Walpole's excellent history reproduced in Section 1 describes the work leading to the opening of the Wesleyan chapel in 1896.

Norma Virgoe has provided information about Methodism before 1896. There was a Wesleyan society in what is now known as Old Hunstanton in 1809, meeting in a cottage possibly behind the Neptune Inn. In those days, every place where religious services were held had to be registered with the Bishop of the Diocese. An application for a registration would be made to his registrar, who would then issue a certificate.

The first application which mentions Methodists in Hunstanton (Old Hunstanton) was for a cottage, the property of William Tilney. It was applied for on 5 April 1809 and granted on 16 May. The signatures on the application were those of 'William Tilney, Proprietor, Mary Smith, Occupier'. The application was witnessed by Edmund Jarett, Marmaduke Revell and William Gilpin. Both William Gilpin and Marmaduke Revell were Wesleyan itinerants, i.e. ministers.



Mr William Gilpin, Preacher of the Gospel. 11th January 1815.

The 1851 Census of Religious Worship

A census took place on 30 March 1851, and all places of worship were required to make returns for every service that took place on that day. A report was published after all returns had been analysed. It is suspected that the results of the census caused a sensation, as the huge impact of nonconformist worship became clear. As far as is known, such a detailed census was not repeated.

There is a return for 'Hunstanton', which in 1851 would have been for what is now known as Old Hunstanton. Here is what was reported:

Wesleyan. Erected about the year 1836.

Separate & Entire: Yes.

Exclusive: Exclusively as a place of Worship.

Sittings: all Free Sittings.

On 30 March: Morning: 27, Evening: 60. Total 87.

Signed 31st March, Miles Hamerton, Manager, Post Office, Hunstanton.

[White's Directory for 1845 states: *Miles Hamerton, druggist, and earthenware dealer – Post Office*].

The Building of Chapels

The late Jim Welham wrote an excellent article for the monthly magazine, *Town and Around* in July 2014, headed *The Building of Chapels*. Construction of St Edmund's parish church began in 1865. Jim notes that early non-conformists had to hold services on the seashore (when the tide was out!). The non-conformists said that it was 'deplorable that in the only church in Hunstanton St Edmunds, ritualism was rampant and Romish doctrines were promulgated'. However, they accepted that although the pomp and ornate ceremonies of St Edmund's were painful and objectionable, they were legal, and although meaningless they must be ended.

In 1887 the Methodists created a new circuit of six chapels within an eight-mile radius of Hunstanton St Edmunds. They had become discontented with their arrangements at the Union, where they were allowed to hold their own services once a month and had started to meet at the Minister's house. Within a year this became too crowded and in December they began to hold services at the club house behind the Neptune Inn. This met with such success that in February 1889 they asked Hamon Le Strange for permission to build a new chapel in Old Hunstanton. To their surprise, he offered them 'an isolated site, large enough to build a chapel and school room, in a cornfield beside a cart track' (now Austin Street).

Initially they declined the land, believing it was too close to the Union Chapel. However, within a few weeks the Union authorities, who for the first eighteen years had had no resident minister, appointed the Rev Richard Cliff to that fulltime position. The Methodists then decided they must accept Hamon's offer and build their own chapel, although they would maintain their friendship with members of the Union to oppose the 'priestism and ritualism' in St Edmund's Church.

Chapter 3: Press Reports and Sir Alfred Jermyn



Stone-Laying, 12th June 1889

The new chapel was built from corrugated iron and able to accommodate a congregation of 250. It also had a small school room. Two memorial stones were laid by Mrs Alfred Jermyn of Lynn (see above) and the second by Miss Pattie Wilson of Beaupre Hall, Outwell, after which both ladies were presented with books of Wesley's hymns. Each placed £5 upon the stones and various others made contributions. The hymn *These stones to Thee in faith we lay* was sung. The chapel was erected in six weeks by Alfred William Pocock, Iron Building Works, Chelsea, at a cost of £300.

The following report appeared in the Lynn News and County Press.

New Wesleyan Chapel at Hunstanton.

On Wednesday the memorial stones of an iron chapel were laid by Mrs Alfred Jermyn, of Lynn, and Miss P Wilson, of Beaupre Hall, Outwell. There was a large gathering of friends from Hunstanton, Lynn, and the villages surrounding, and the weather was beautifully warm. The service was somewhat delayed owing to the lateness of the Lynn train, which brought the ladies and ministers who were to take part in the event. The first hymn from the specially printed sheet was announced by the superintendent minister and sung very heartily. Scripture was read by the Rev G Kirby White of Norwich, and the dedicatory prayer was offered by the Rev J Foot of Lynn.

The Rev D W Barr then briefly sketched the history of the movement they were met to advance. Ninety-eight years ago, the Walsingham circuit was formed by division of the Lynn circuit. It existed for 96 years, during the latter part of which period Methodism had so declined in several of the villages, owing to various causes, that a few enterprising spirits of the neighbourhood aroused themselves to devise some plan which would enable Methodism to recover her position and consolidate her work. A scheme was drawn up, part of which provided for the severance of some six villages surrounding Hunstanton, planting a minister at Hunstanton to work up these causes and to shepherd the Methodists of Hunstanton itself.

There was no Methodist chapel at Hunstanton, nor any prospect of one, even though the promoters desired to build one. But feeling that the time had not yet come, an arrangement was made with the trustees of the Union chapel, by which the Wesleyan minister was to preach one Sunday per month in that pulpit, but all distinctively Methodist meetings were held in the minister's home. Six months ago, Methodist services were begun in a club room, where it existed a generation ago. Such was the success of this enterprise that a deputation waited upon the squire asking for a site of land in the old village, upon which to build a small chapel. Difficulties were raised, but Mr Le Strange suggested that a site might be obtained in the new town. This, however, was refused as it was felt the arrangement already referred to was sufficient for the present.

Meanwhile, however, steps were taken by some of the Union chapel to secure a regular Congregational pastor. It was then felt by the Methodists of the town that the only course open to them was to commence regular services of their own. They then approached Mr Le Strange for the land they had formally refused. In every courteous

way he treated their request – both as a man of business, a gentleman, and a Christian. A plot of land was secured large enough for a permanent chapel and schoolroom, and an iron building which with all expenses will cost about £300 was begun. It was in no antagonistic spirit that they met that day to inaugurate the work. They intended to maintain the high and noble tradition of their great founder, and to be “The friends of all, the enemies of none”.

The Rev D W Barr then requested Mrs A Jermyn to lay the first stone and referred in high terms to her own and her husband’s deep interest in the welfare of the circuit. Mr Jermyn placed a cheque for £5 on the stone [around £800 today]. The next stone was laid by Miss Pattie Wilson. Mr Jermyn, Senior Circuit Steward, handed the trowel to her and speaking of her own and her ancestors long connection with Methodism. Many donations and promises were personally or by proxy laid on the stones, and a collection was made. The total receipts to date amounted to £233.

There was some debate in the press lamenting the separation of the Wesleyans from the Union Church.

Lynn & County News – 18 June 1889

Sir,

The statement is made by the Rev. H.H. Barr, according to the report of his address in your last week’s paper, that the necessity of a Wesleyan chapel was not felt until the Congregationalists took steps to obtain a resident minister of their own. I wish to know whether this statement is correct. If it is, it is directly contrary to what is said by the non-Wesleyan portion of the Union chapel congregation. Their belief undoubtedly is that their friends took no steps to obtain a resident Congregational minister, until the Wesleyans had determined upon separating themselves from the united congregation.

This should certainly be cleared up in the interests of truth.

I am, yours truly,

AN ENQUIRER.

Lynn & County News – 22 June 1889

Sir,

The ceremony which took place at Hunstanton on Wednesday week, as I learn from your valuable paper, brings to an end a laudable experiment in that religious unity of which we often hear so much but see so little.

For a period of twenty years the Nonconformists have maintained at Hunstanton a place of worship in which the members of Christian communities outside the Episcopal church have had equal privileges and met together in divine worship, unaffected by differences of opinion either upon matters of Church government or denominational observance, a true "union at hearts," it may be assumed, in the cause of a common Master. The arrangement also appeared highly suitable to the circumstances of a place like

Hunstanton where Nonconformity, if it was to live and thrive, could hardly do the former, much less the latter, except by a combination which put aside merely denominational differences, and formed a union upon principles common to all the free religious organisations. The principal nonconformist bodies were parties to the building of a chapel upon this basis, the foundation stone laid by Mr. J. J. Colman, M.P. and in inasmuch as the combination thus formed has lasted for the time already dated, it is a reasonable conclusion that it has justified the work of its founders. To outsiders at any rate it has presented a spectacle only too rare in the religions life of our time, and particularly in village life, that is to say, the suppression of sectarian rivalries which are not seldom the reproach, same times the opprobrium, of English Nonconformity.

I am not about to say a word against the zeal which prompts a religious community to increase its spheres of usefulness and to set up visible symbols of its evangelising energies in any corner of the earth's surface. The Wesleyans, who have obtained a site at Hunstanton for a chapel of their own, are, of course, fully entitled to offer their own special spiritual privileges to any portion of the population. Their determination to build a chapel for themselves is not one of which anyone has a right to complain. But it does seem a melancholy satire upon Nonconformity that in a small place like Hunstanton the (at best, and at best in the season,) scanty congregation which attends the existing chapel should be divided into two, each having the burthen of its own establishment to maintain, and each entering of necessity, the circumstances of the case being what they are, into rivalry with the other. Nor will the division now accomplished stop here. The Primitive Methodists are not always at one with the Wesleyans, and their claim upon Mr. Le Strange for a site for a chapel will now be irresistible, to say nothing of others, including the Salvation Army, whose religious melodies are heard in our highways upon a Sunday. There is a growing feeling amongst Nonconformists everywhere especially amongst who are the most frequently called upon for financial help, that the multiplication of places especially in rural districts is often injudicious and unnecessary; and there can be no doubt at all that so often in towns, and still more so in villages, the propensity which exists to break up congregations without any adequate cause has long been regarded as an evil to be overcome and not a virtue to be encouraged. I am not in a position to know all the circumstances of the schism which has been brought about at Hunstanton; but so far as they are matter of public conversation, they do not seem to be altogether such as can be honestly applauded, and unless I am altogether misinformed, those observations of the Rev. Mr. Barr, in which he (feeling that a justification was necessary), threw the blame upon the action of the Congregationalists, give an inaccurate version of the facts.

I make these remarks, I assure all persons concerned, without the least prejudice, and only out of a sentiment of regret that a mere handful of Christian Nonconformists could not continue to "dwell together in unity," in that way which was thought "good and pleasant" in the old days, and which is not less so now whenever the world has the rare opportunity of witnessing it. I am, your obedient servant, UNITY & CONCORD.

June 19th.



On 26 June 1889, on a glorious summer day, a large crowd gathered to witness the opening ceremony. Although some had travelled a considerable distance, the chapel was unable to accommodate them all.

Alfred Jermyn handed the Rev David Barr a silver-plated key with which to unlock the door. The service was 'enlivened by the hearty singing of the congregation and the choir of the Tower Street Chapel, Lynn'. Tea was later served in the schoolhouse and in a nearby marquee that accommodated a further 300.

Norfolk News 29th June 1889



HUNSTANTON.

A NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL. - The ceremony in connection with the opening of the new iron chapel at Hunstanton St. Edmund's took place on Wednesday afternoon.

The building has a nice interior, being wainscoted throughout, roof included and has rows of well-made benches. The front entrance is a kind of porch, on each side of which is a memorial stone. After devotional exercises Mr. Alfred Jermyn presented the key to

Mr. D. Barr, and having alluded in appropriate terms, spoke in a congratulatory way of the successful ministry of the Rev. D. W. Barr at Hunstanton.

Mr. D. Barr said it gave him much pleasure to be there that day to open their new house of prayer. Upon the doors being opened the chapel was speedily filled, and the Rev. Richard Jenkin, chairman of the district, conducted a service. A public tea had been arranged to take place in a marquee fronting the chapel, but this was found to be totally inadequate to accommodate the numbers. A long table was arranged in the chapel, another outside the marquee, and the vestry also had to be utilised. In the evening there was a public meeting, under the chairmanship of Mr. Alfred Jermyn, senior circuit steward, when addresses were delivered by the Rev. Richard Jenkin, the Rev. W. E. Gardner, the Rev. D. W. Barr (the resident minister), Mr. David Barr (his father), and others.

Lynn News & County Press – 29 June 1889

THE NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL. The ceremonial of the opening of the new iron chapel at Hunstanton St. Edmund's, took place on Wednesday afternoon. The building has a nice interior, being wainscoted throughout, roof and all, and has rows of well-made benches. The front entrance is a kind of porch, on each side of which are the memorial stones laid about a week ago.

The time as announced by placard when Mr. David Barr, of Birmingham, would "turn the key" was 3.45. but on account of the non-arrival of a number of friends expected from Lynn, the ceremony was postponed for a short time. The proceedings began with the 991st hymn from the Wesleyan hymn book, 'Christ is corner stone,' which was sung by the crowd assembled in front of the building. after which a prayer was said by the Rev. W. E. Gardner. Upon its conclusion, Mr Alfred Jermyn presented the key to Mr. Barr, and having alluded in appropriate terms to the occasion of the opening, spoke in a congratulatory was of the ministry of the D. W. Barr at Hunstanton.

Mr. D. Barr observed that it gave him great pleasure to be there that day to open their new house of prayer, and concluded a very suitable address by urging those present who had not already done so, to give themselves up to the service of God.

Upon the doors being opened, the chapel was speedily filled, and the minister appointed to conduct the service, the Rev. Richard Jenkin, chairman of the district, gave out the hymn, "Pleasant are thy courts above" which having been duly sung, prayer was said suitable to the occasion, and other readings from scripture followed. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Richard Jenkin, the Rev. W. E. Gardner, the Rev. D. W. Barr, the resident minister, Mr. David Barr (his father) and others.

Mr. Jenkins then preached from 20th chapter of Matthew, first 16 verses, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a man who is a householder," etc. The collection realised £3.18s.

A public tea, as had been arranged, took place in a tent fronting the chapel, but this was found to be totally inadequate with regard to space for the number present, for the vestry

was also filled, a long table was arranged in the chapel. another outside the tent and then there was not room enough, so that some took tea on the green sward, sitting in groups.

In the evening at seven there was a public meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Alfred Jermyn, who is senior circuit steward, when the chapel was more than comfortably filled. The proceedings commenced with the announcement of a hymn, "Lo God is here" etc., which was heartily sung. Prayer was offered by Mr. Eggett of Lynn, after which the Rev. D. W. Barr introduced Mr. Alfred Jermyn to the meeting and requested him to preside. After some introductory remarks, Mr. Jermyn called upon the Rev. D. W. Barr, the superintendent of the Hunstanton circuit, to address the meeting. The speaker expressed his intention not to make a speech further than to give a brief sketch of the history of the movement they were met to further. He felt this necessary because of certain anonymous letters which had appeared in the columns of a local newspaper. and which he could not answer directly because the writers had not the courage to attach their names to their opinions. More than six months since Methodist services were began in a club room in Old Hunstanton. They were so successful that in February last application was made to the squire, Mr. LeStrange, for a site of land in the old village on which to build a chapel. Difficulties were raised by the squire, who, however, offered a site at New Hunstanton. This was refused on the ground that the existing arrangement by which the Wesleyan minister preached once a month in the Union chapel was sufficient for the present. In the course of time, however, praiseworthy steps were actively taken by the Union chapel to secure a Congregational pastor of the Union chapel, and thus supply a longfelt want. The Methodists then feeling that, as such, they were then excluded from chapel, the only thing for them to do was to take the bold course they had followed with so much success. There was no ungenerous rivalry, but a desire to fulfil the Methodist motto, to spread scriptural holiness through the land.

The next speaker called upon was Mr. Chas. Smith, the secretary, who read a list of donors, from which it appeared that, including the help received from every source, they had received about £300.

Mr. A. J. Scott, of Lynn. then delivered a hearty address, and was followed by the Rev. W.E. Gardner, who warmly expressed his sympathy with the enterprise.

The Chairman of the district, the Rev. R. Jenkin, was the next speaker, and was succeeded by Mr. David Barr.

The collection was afterwards made which, with the afternoon collection, amounted to £7.10. A vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had opened the chapel, and had furthered the interests of the scheme by the gift of £50 was proposed and carried. Votes of thanks were also expressed to the Chairman and to the Rev. Richard Jenkin for his valuable services, to the choir and organist of Tower Street, Lynn, for their aid on the occasion, to the ladies who had presided at the tea and had provided trays, and to Mr. Jermyn for the loan of seats and the gift of lamps.

The doxology and benediction concluded the meeting.

The following are press reports concerning Methodist activities in the following years.

Downham Market Gazette – 20 August 1890

HUNSTANTON - The Wesleyan Sunday School children's anniversary was celebrated on Sunday and Monday last. On Sunday the Rev. R. Culley conducted services morning and evening. In the afternoon, there was an open-air service in the Esplanade grounds (kindly lent by Mr. Watson) conducted by the Rev. H.W. Goodwin and Mr. Walter Goodwin, both of Docking. Between 200 and 300 people were present. On Monday a flower service was held in the chapel. Mr. Thomas Cockshott of Peterborough, presiding. The speakers were Major T. Davey of Peterborough, Rev. F.H Thomas (circuit, minister), Mr. J. Bowman, and the Rev. D. W. Barr (the former circuit minister). During the evening prizes were given to the children.

Diss Express - 15 May 1891

Wesleyan District Meeting held at Diss –

Home Missions meeting - Mr. A. Jermyn next addressed the meeting, and as representing the Hunstanton circuit, he gave interesting account of the good work carried on by the various societies in that neighbourhood. He mentioned that the home mission fund had done much for Hunstanton, and among other signs of success he said that new chapels had been built, others that had been shut up were re-opened, and there were indications of deep religious awakening among the hearers.

Downham Market Gazette – 18 July 1891

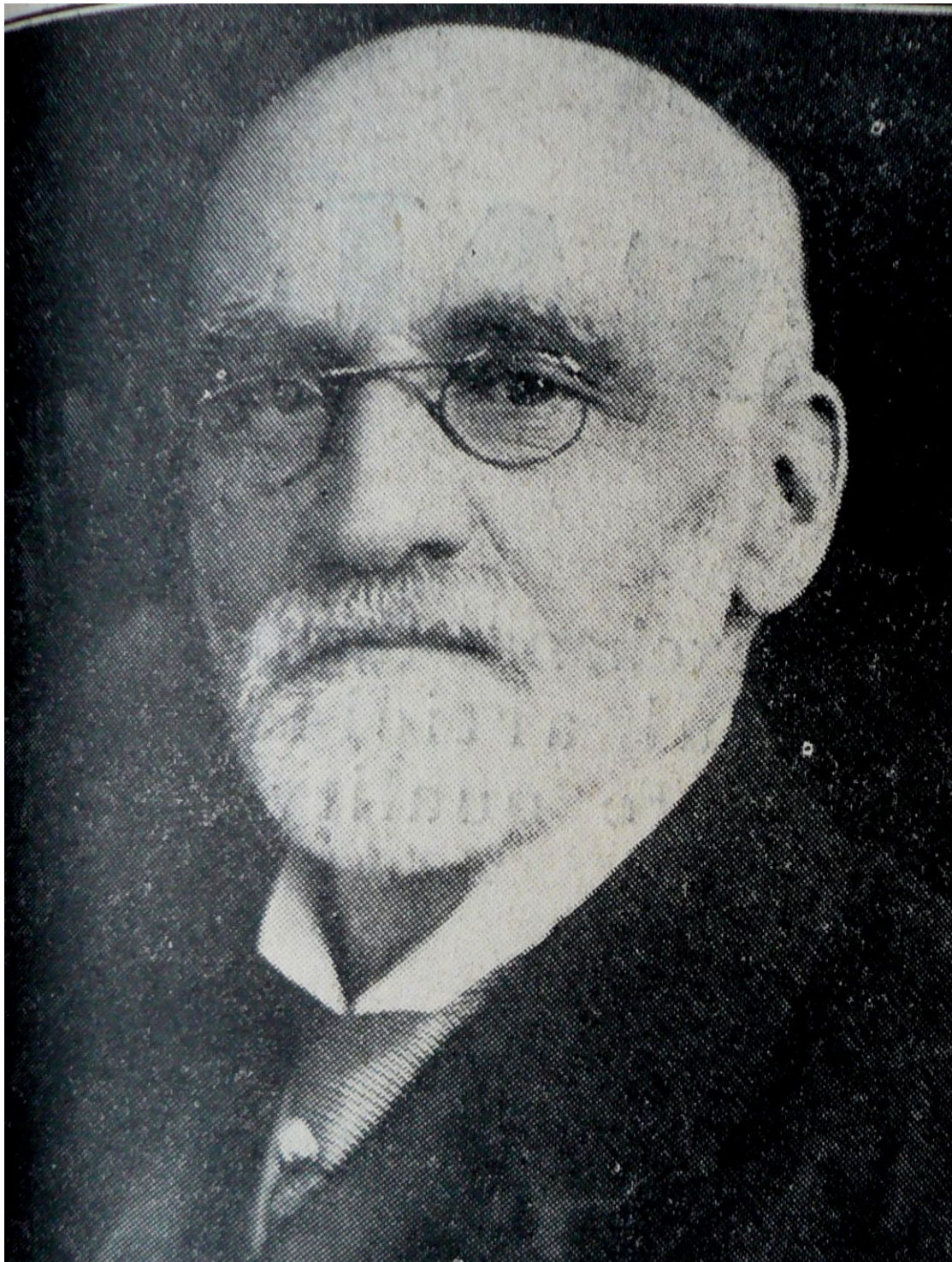
The Sunday School Anniversary was celebrated on Sunday. In the morning and evening the Rev. T. Austin preached. A platform accommodated at the preacher's stand some who, joined by the choir, sang anniversary hymns The boys were on one platform, the girls on the other. There were good attendances at both services. The afternoon service by the kind permission of Mr. Ingram Watson, was held on the Esplanade grounds and was conducted by the Rev. T. Austin assisted by the Messrs. Smith, Hill and Joice. There was a very good attendance. A flower service was held on Wednesday when prizes were given for regular attendance.

Downham Market Gazette – 5 March 1892

HUNSTANTON. On Wednesday in last week a meeting in connexion with this juvenile temperance branch was held in the Wesleyan chapel when a programme consisting of readings, recitations, and dialogues, interspersed with duets and other musical pieces was gone through with. The Rev. Mr. Thomas, the successor (Hunstanton circuit minister) of the Rev. Mr. Barr, presided.

Sir Alfred Jermyn by the Rev John Garfoot.

From: *The Story of Ninety Years: Methodism in the Ipswich Circuit 1909-98, 2001.*



BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

I BEG to convey my best thanks for the confidence which has been placed in me throughout my business career, and to announce my retirement in favour of Mr. ALFRED JERMYN, of Cambridge, who brings with him credentials of a high order, and it is a pleasure to me to be able to believe of him that he will well deserve, even increased support.

JOHN THORLEY.

P.S.—Mr. JERMYN is so good as to receive my accounts, and his receipt, or that of his employées, will be a sufficient discharge.

12 and 13, High Street, King's Lynn,
7th August, 1872.

JERMYN, LATE THORLEY.

As successor to MR. THORLEY, I beg respectfully to solicit a continuance of the support which has been accorded to him. It will be my endeavour by strict personal attention—as well to orders as to visitors—and by adherence to the principles on which the business has been conducted, to merit the confidence which may be reposed in me.

ALFRED JERMYN.

12 and 13, High Street, King's Lynn,
August 7th, 1872.

IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE DRAPERY STOCK, AT 12 & 13, HIGH STREET, LYNN.

In consequence of the disposal of Mr. Thorley's business, the Entire

WHOLESALE & RETAIL STOCK

is now offered for sale at special prices.

ALTHOUGH large quantities of goods have been purchased and warehoused for the coming season prior to the recent advances, there will be no reserve, and purchasers desiring to secure a really cheap parcel will find in every department goods below manufacturers' prices.

The STOCK consists of General Linen and Woollen Drapery, Millinery, Bonnets, Jackets and Fancy Goods, Prints, Winceys, Dress Fabrics, &c.

Black Silks—of the noted GOOD-WEARING makes.

A quantity of Coloured Silk Dresses, some of them a little soiled, to be cleared at very low prices

Large Stocks of Ribbons, Hosiery, Gloves and Trimmings, well worth the notice of Shop Keepers, Dressmakers and others.

THE FURNISHING DEPARTMENT CONTAINS :—

Brussels, Tapestry, Kidderminster and Felt Carpets,
Worsted and Union Damasks, Moreens, Dimitics, Chintzes, &c.
Several Bales of Blankets, Quilts and Counterpanes,
Table Covers, Table Linens, Sheetings, Bed Ticks, &c.

THE WHOLE OF THE STOCK OF GENTLEMEN'S WOOLLEN CLOTHS

will be cleared out in consequence of relinquishing the Department.

♣ Holders of Club Tickets will find very Cheap Goods of all kinds

ALFRED JERMYN,

Late JOHN THORLEY.

August, 1872.

ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE
AT
12 AND 13, HIGH STREET, LYNN.

DECIDED BARGAINS IN
GENERAL USEFUL AND FANCY DRAPERY,
COMPRISING

DRESSES from 2s 9d to 30s each.

SILKS from 1s 9d a yard.

Thousands of Yards of WINCEYS from 2½d to 11½d per yard.

Fancy DRESS MATERIALS from 3½d per yard.

Colored Worsted SERGES, at 7½d per yard.

THE WHOLE STOCK OF
WINTER FANCY DRESSES,
AT REDUCED PRICES.

Including REPPS, CORDS, CAMLETS, PLAIDS, &c.,
PRINTS, CALICOES, FLANNELS, SHIRTINGS, SHEETINGS, &c.,
PROPORTIONATELY CHEAP.

THE REMAINING STOCKS OF
COSTUMES, SKIRTS, JACKETS, SHAWLS, FURS AND OTHER
WINTER GOODS,
MUST BE CLEARED TO MAKE ROOM FOR LARGE DELIVERIES OF SPRING PURCHASES

The REMNANTS in all Departments (accumulated during the Season) marked at Prices
Regardless of Cost.

A few SOILED BLANKETS and QUILTS, and a Lot of TOWELS
Offered at SPECIAL PRICES during this SALE.

TWO HUNDRED PAIRS OF LACE CURTAINS,

From 2s 9d to 25s a Pair.

THESE AND SEVERAL OTHER

SPECIALITIES

IN THE

FURNISHING DEPARTMENT,

ARE WELL DESERVING THE ATTENTION OF PURCHASERS.

QUANTITIES OF ODD LOTS OF
HOSIERY, GLOVES, COLLARS, CUFFS, TIES, SCARVES, HANDKERCHIEFS, &c.
SEVERAL PIECES OF

WATER PROOF TWEED,

BARGAINS from 1s 11d to 3s 11d a YARD; and a

"JOB LOT" OF WOOLLENS, TROUSERINGS, COATINGS, &c.

With a view to an Immediate Clearance of the above-mentioned Goods, the whole have been marked
at the lowest possible prices, from which no abatement can be made.

ALFRED JERMYN.

N.B.—EVERY REQUISITE FOR EVENING DRESS.
January 20th, 1874.

Some of you may remember Jermyn's Department Store at King's Lynn (now Debenhams) which was run on very similar lines to the store in the television series, complete with shop-walker in morning dress enquiring "Are you being served" and conducting you to the right counter. Here the obliging assistant would take down article after article to show you. They would then screw the money and bill into a small container and it would be whisked on a series of overhead wires to the cashier and be returned with your receipt and change. Or am I going back a bit?

Its founder Sir Alfred Jermyn was a remarkable man. Born at Wymondham and brought up on a farm, at fifteen years of age he was apprenticed to Robert Sayle of Cambridge under whose influence he became associated with the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He became a member of Society and subsequently joined a band of young men in conducting cottage meetings in various parts of the town. Out of this band came several local preachers of whom he was one. These, under the guidance of Rev. E.P. Lowry, were largely instrumental in forming and working up a new Wesleyan Mission at Hills Road which culminated in building the former church where for several years the Leysian School worshipped before their own was built.

In his autobiography he recalled attending the Jubilee meetings of foreign missions, listening to such famous speakers as Dr Osborn, Revs Thomas Champness from West Africa, Thomas Adams from the Friendly Islands and Dr Lyth from Fiji.

Also on the platform was Joseph Ryder, the man who chiefly influenced Robert Sayle in purchasing 'The Leys'.

After a time, he left Cambridge for a London house of business and attached himself to Hinde Street and its Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society. He then entered business in Bedford and worked with Mark Guy Pearse. Unfortunately owing to Mrs Jermyn's poor health he was compelled to give up a prosperous business and came to Lynn. He believed this move was providential guidance. His own words are worth quoting:

I well remember the advent of the Rev. John Gould to the Norwich and Lynn District as it marked an epoch in its history. Mr Gould almost immediately set about a much-needed advance in connection with our Church. He called together a number of us laymen and discussed the necessity of a great forward movement.

This met with the support of the late Dr Moulton and very soon an earnest appeal was made to the Cambridge and Ipswich circuits to sever their connection with London and join our District. I was one of a deputation of three that waited upon the two Quarterly meetings concerned, the result being a hearty co-operation on their part. The District of East Anglia was thus formed.

One of the schemes he was involved in was Newmarket where he was invited to go and see the condition of the chapel.

It was the building, with very little alteration, that had been used by the cockfighting fraternity in the previous half century. Here in his youthful days the Rev. Charles Garrett used to preach and on the weeknight Charles Haddon Spurgeon (who was an usher in a

school in the same square) used to go to hear his friend Garrett give his temperance and evangelical addresses. It was my great pleasure to take part in raising the money whereby the present charming place of worship was erected that now adorns a prominent place in this town of the great racing community.

Other projects that he was very much associated with were the founding of the East Anglian (now Culford) School, Bury St Edmunds, and with the beginning of the Hunstanton Circuit, now amalgamated with West Norfolk

In King's Lynn he founded his own business in partnership with C.W. Perr which went from strength to strength. You could do that in Victorian and Edwardian times if you were motivated by the nonconformist ethic of hard work and thrift. In 1897, he became Mayor of King's Lynn and was the first to break away from the old custom of going to the Established Church for the mayoral service. Instead, it was held in his own church, the old Tower Street. As a total abstainer he insisted on no intoxicants being served at his official receptions. He founded a charity for the poor, which I believe still carries his name. A special concern of his was the creation of small holdings, whereby large estates were purchased by local authorities for renting to small farmers and he served as honorary secretary of the Norfolk Small Holdings Association. In 1919 he was knighted 'for public and local services.' Jesus said, 'The Son of man came not to be served but to serve' and this is how he wants it to be with his followers. Archbishop William Temple said, 'The Church is the only organisation in the world that exists primarily for the benefit of its non-members.' We are called to serve.

In Hymns and Psalms one of the sections is headed 'Witness and Service' It begins with 'A charge to keep I have' (785) which goes on:

To serve the present age
My calling to fulfil
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will.

Sir Alfred Jermyn certainly lived up to that.



Memorial in Hardwick Cemetery

Chapter 4: The 1896 Church

The New Wesleyan Chapel and Press Reports

Within a few years, the 'tin hut' was unable to accommodate the ever-increasing congregation, who also found difficulty coping with the heat in the summer and draughts in the winter. A new Chapel was required.

HUNSTANTON.

THE Wesleyans, who have for six years worshipped in an iron building, are building a new chapel at a cost of £1,200. Architect, Mr. J. A. Hillam; builders, Messrs. Collins and Barber, Downham. The ceremony of laying the foundation stones took place on Wednesday. The Rev. J. Lewis Smith directed the proceedings. The Rev. W. A. Leach read part of the 3rd chapter of I Cor., and the Rev. G. Searle offered up prayer. Rev. J. Lewis Smith gave an address, and Mr. A. Jermyn laid the first stone and made a financial statement. The stone-laying then continued, and the Rev. J. Ferrier Hulme, Cambridge, gave an address. The building will be of carstone, with chalk, length inside 60ft. by 30ft., height 18ft. up to the wall plate and will have a very substantial roof, covered with felt. There will be a half-octagon front and a porch. The windows will be pointed Gothic. The recess and rostrum will be at the north end, and a gallery at the opposite end. There will be chairs instead of pews. David Barr, Esq., of Birmingham, is a substantial contributor towards the structure. A public tea was served and a public meeting was held in the evening.

July 1893.

The Wesleyans, who have for six years worshipped in an iron building, are building a new chapel at a cost of £1,200. Architect, Mr. J. A. Hillam; builders, Messrs. Collins and Barber, Downham.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stones took place on Wednesday. The Rev. J. Lewis Smith directed the proceedings. The Rev. W. A. Leach read part of the 3rd chapter of I Cor., and the Rev. G. Searle offered up prayer.

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A public tea was served, and a public meeting was held in the evening.

Norwich Mercury – 8 June 1895

Sale of work in chapel and schoolroom. Various speakers before it opened.

Vocal and instrumental music. – proceeds in aid of the circuit and new building fund.

Norfolk News – 27 July 1895

New Wesleyan Chapel - On Wednesday afternoon foundation stones of the permanent building which is to succeed the iron structure hitherto used for many years the members of the Wesleyan connexion, were laid by several friends of the Hunstanton Circuit and of the immediate neighborhood, in the presence of a numerous company. The Rev. J. Lewis Smith gave a short resumé of the progress of the Wesleyan movement in Hunstanton. Mr. Barr of Birmingham, who was to have laid the foundation stone, was unable to be present, and that duty was accordingly performed by Mr. A. Jermyn, Lynn, who said it was through the generosity and the efforts of Mr. Barr that the land and temporary building had been acquired. They had to acknowledge the kind and large-hearted generosity of members of all the churches, The necessity for a second chapel in Hunstanton was shown by the crowded state of both in the season, and they were thankful for the glorious work still to be done. Altogether some £300 was in hand towards the new building, which will require £200 besides to complete it.

Norwich Mercury – 27 July 1895

HUNSTANTON. Wesleyans, who have for six years worshipped in an iron building, are building a new chapel at a cost of £1200. Architect, Mr. J. A. Hillam; builders, Messrs. Collins and Barber, Downham.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stones took place on Wednesday. The Rev. J. Lewis Smith directed the proceedings. The Rev. W. A. Leach read part of the 3rd chapter of I Cor., and the Rev. G. Searle offered up prayer.

The Rev. J. Lewis Smith gave an address, and Mr. A. Jermyn laid the first stone and made a financial statement. The stone-laying then continued, and the Rev. J. Ferrier Hulme, Cambridge, gave an address. The building will be of carrstone, with chalk, length inside 60ft. by 30ft., height 18ft. up to the wall plate and will have very substantial roof, covered with felt. There will be a half-octagon front and a porch. The windows will be pointed Gothic. The recess and rostrum will be at the north end, and a gallery at the opposite end. There will be chairs instead of pews. David Barr, Esq., of Birmingham, is a substantial contributor towards the structure.

A public tea was served, and public meeting was held in the evening.

The following are press reports concerning Methodist activities in the following year.

Norfolk News – 17 August 1895

HUNSTANTON. Wesleyan Bazaar. —On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday a fancy fair was held in marquees near the 'Green,' and, despite unfavorable weather on Tuesday and Wednesday, was well attended. Thursday, however, was delightfully fine. The opening ceremony took place three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, and was performed by Mr. and Mrs. Finch of West London, introduced the Rev. J. Lewis Smith (the minister in charge of the circuit), and supported by Rev. C. W. Rhodes, S. Blakeley and W.M. Johnson. The stalls were tastefully decorated by Mr. Broad of Messrs. Jermyn & Son, Lynn, and were presided over by the following

A number of good class entertainments were given under the direction of Mr. G. M. Bridges of Lynn.... A clever and interesting entertainment was given gratuitously each evening by Mr. Hairy Foster and Company. The proceeds of the bazaar are in aid of the new Wesleyan Chapel now in aid of the new Wesleyan Chapel now in process of construction.

Thetford & Watton Times – 30 November 1895

HEACHAM. On Thursday in last week the Rev. S. Blakeley, who had been in failing health for some months past, died at his residence here, at the age of 58 years. In his early life he fulfilled the duties of tutor in a gentleman's school. Later feeling himself called to the ministry, he, in 1869 offered himself as a candidate to the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, and being accepted, was sent direct to the work in the Lisburn Mines circuit. He afterwards travelled in the Pembroke, Neath, Ramsey, Isle of Man, Cheadle, Salisbury, Spalding, and other districts. In 1889 he became a supernumerary, and came to reside in this parish, and took an active part in the Hunstanton circuit until prevented by affliction. He was up to the time of his decease also a member of the Heacham Parish Council. At the Monday a large number of persons joined the procession, many coming from long distances. In the Wesleyan Chapel a short service was conducted by the Revs. Charlesworth, Barr, and Barrowclough, B.A., B.D., after which the coffin was taken to the parish church, where the Vicar, the Rev. G.T. Thompson, read part of the burial service, the Revs. Charlesworth and Barrowclough again officiating at the graveside.



The Wesleyan Chapel was opened alongside the 'tin hut' on 15 June 1896, on what was to become the junction of the High Road and Austin Street. The carrstone building was constructed by William Jarvis of King's Lynn, for £1,540.





Milk Delivery — Austin Street — 1920

Mr David Barr JP



The foundation stone of the church is located on the west side of the porch. It commemorates David Barr Esq. of Birmingham.



David Barr was born in Fillongley near Coventry on 18th March 1831, the son of a shoemaker. He went on to become a successful businessman. He was converted at the age of 12 under the preaching of Thomas Collins and became a local preacher himself at the age of 20. He progressed to take on the roles of Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and trustee of the Wesleyan & General Assurance Society, which had originated at Cherry Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Birmingham.

In public life at various times, he served on the local Boards of Lighting, Health and Guardians, and the School Board, and held office in the local church and circuit. In

1892 he was elected to the Local Preachers Mutual Aid Association General Committee, becoming President in 1906. He instituted a fund and gave a site at Fillongley to provide seven cottages for necessitous local preachers.

At the time of the 1891 census, aged 60, he was living at 117 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, with his occupation given as Estate Agent and Local Preacher.

His son, the Rev. David William Barr (enrolled in membership 1881; died 1914), was minister at Hunstanton at the time of the building of the iron chapel and later stone church. Mr Barr was a substantial contributor towards the £1200 cost of the church.

Mr David Barr died on 9 March 1910 and is buried at the General Cemetery, Birmingham.

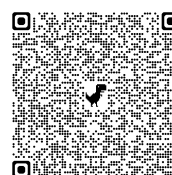
The Methodist Times of July 1896, contained the following article:

DAVID BARR, BIRMINGHAM.

Mr. David Barr has been a continuous member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church for fifty-three years, during forty-five of which he has been a local preacher. He has filled all the offices open to Methodist laymen except that of class-leader. Mr. Barr takes a deep interest in everything affecting local preachers, as readers of this paper well know, and is an active member of the Committee of the Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association. He is a director and trustee of the Wesleyan and General Assurance Society. Mr. Barr has taken a prominent part in local municipal affairs, having been fifteen years a member of the Aston School Board, twice chairman of the Aston Local Board of Health, a member of the Aston Board of Guardians, vice-chairman of the Birmingham Board of Guardians, with a membership of six years, chairman of the Saltley Ward Liberal Unionist Association, and a member of the Committee of the Rural Labourers' League. He has one son in the ministry, Rev. D. W. Barr, and his daughter is the wife of Rev. W. R. Dent.

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His autobiography, 'Climbing the Ladder: the struggles and successes of a village lad' (1910) can be read via this link.



The architect for the 1896 church, J A Hillam, also designed London Road Methodist Church, King's Lynn, and Dersingham Methodist Chapel. Given its appearance, it would seem highly likely that Hillam also designed Newmarket Methodist Church, which bears a striking resemblance to Hunstanton.



1896 also saw the opening of the Town Hall, facing The Green. In those days New Hunstanton would have been lit by gas, piped from the gas works where the Tesco superstore is now located. There is still evidence of the gas lights in Hunstanton Methodist Church, with light brackets in the gallery and vestry (left).



Hunstanton Society

Hunstanton in 1896

In 1896 Hunstanton, at 50 years old (dated from opening of the New Inn, later Golden Lion) was an established resort.

Hunstanton, now a well-known and much frequented watering-place, occupies, without doubt, one of the most healthy sites in the kingdom: the climate is usually dry and bracing, owing to the scanty rainfall and the absence of fog, except at very rare intervals, and the air is known to be strongly impregnated with ozone; in spring the east wind is less keen than in the midland counties: the pier, erected in 1870, is 800 feet in length, supported on cast-iron columns, resting on screw piles, and affords a spacious landing-place and an agreeable promenade. The bathing is both safe and good. There are three good hotels, a few villa residences, and numerous lodging-houses.

{Kelly's Directory 1892}

The same directory lists places of worship, including: *Wesleyan, Rev. Frederic Henry Thomas; 11 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.; wed. 7.30 p.m.* This would have been in the previous (1889) structure on Austin Street.

Tourist activities mainly involved promenading, along the Green, the local area (Ringstead Downs) and along the Pier and Prom. This is now known as the North Promenade, in those days lined with buildings offering amenities such as Bazaars (Gift Shops) Reading Rooms and Photographers. Similar amenities existed on the Seaward Side of the station in a group of buildings, run by photographer William McLean and including a "Camera Obscura". There were private libraries for book hire, and bathing machines where intrepid swimmers could change and emerge into the water. The cliff area had not yet been opened to the public.



This was a growing town, the population including Old Hunstanton was 1,893 in the 1901 census. Most of what we know in the central part was already there, around the Green and the Railway Station, so this would include LeStrange Terrace, Westgate, St Edmunds Terrace, Greevegate, the northern part of Southend Road, Church Street and the grand blocks along Cliff Parade.

Commercially, the centre was alongside the Railway, and LeStrange Terrace can be considered the first High Street. There were more shops, mainly on Westgate and “The Royal Parade” (opposite the Church on Greevegate). The High Street as we know it now was not yet established. There were some cottages on the east side, and the west side was mainly the gardens of Tamworth House. The Post Office was on Westgate.

The school on James Street had been established, and there were several private schools. The town was also supplied by a Gasworks on the current site of the Tesco car park and petrol station. The first of the famous convalescent homes was built on Valentine Road in 1879. These are all modern names for the streets.

1896 itself saw the opening of the Town Hall for the new Hunstanton District Council, who had renamed the town from “Hunstanton St Edmunds” to “New Hunstanton”, the establishment of the West Norfolk Recreation Grounds, and the replacement of the older structure with the fine new Methodist Church on Austin Street.

Philip Thomas
Hunstanton Society



FRITH

Hunstanton, High Street, 1907

58836



THE FRANCIS FRITH
COLLECTION

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1896 Book: *Enquire Within upon Everything*

This encyclopaedia was first published in 1856. To quote from the editor's introduction:

Whether You Wish to Model a Flower in Wax;

to Study the Rules of Etiquette;

to Serve a Relish for Breakfast or Supper;

to Plan a Dinner for a Large Party or a Small One;

to Cure a Headache;

to Make a Will;

to Get Married;

to Bury a Relative;

Whatever You May Wish to Do, Make, or to Enjoy,

Provided Your Desire has Relation to the Necessities of Domestic Life,

I Hope You will not Fail to "Enquire Within."

The 1896 edition found in the church archives contains 2,768 entries on every topic imaginable, plus seven tables at the end. The cost of publishing the book would have been partly supported by advertisements, a selection of which is shown here.

BABIES' BEST FOOD.

Robinson's
Patent **Barley**

UNTIL EIGHT OR NINE MONTHS OLD.

AFTERWARDS

Robinson's
Patent **Groats**

KEEN, ROBINSON & CO., Limited, London,
MANUFACTURERS OF
KEEN'S MUSTARD.

ROWLANDS' ARTICLES
For the Hair, Complexion, and Teeth, are the **PUREST AND BEST.**

ODONTO A pure, non-gritty tooth powder; it whitens the teeth, prevents decay & sweetens the breath; is more efficacious than pastes or washes. 2s.

MACASSAR OIL preserves and beautifies the hair and prevents it falling off or turning grey, is the best Brillantine for ladies' and children's hair, being less greasy and drying than ordinary Brillantine, and can be had in a golden colour for fair hair. Sizes, 3s. 7d., 4s. 6d., equal to four small.

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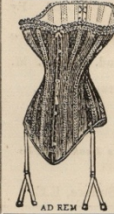
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Do not be poisoned by using BAKING POWDER
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Scripture Cake Recipe

There was a piece of writing paper found in the book, giving details of how to make a *Scripture Cake*. This is reproduced below.

4.5 tea cups of 1st Kings, chapter 4, verse 22
1.5 tea cups of Judges, chapter 5, verse 25
2 tea cups of Jeremiah, chapter 6, verse 20
2 tea cups of 1 Samual, chapter 30, verse 12
2 tea cups of ?, chapter 3, verse 12
1 tea cup of Numbers, chapter 3, verse 12
2 tablespoons of 1 Samuel, chapter 14, verse 25
Season to taste with 2 Chronicles, chapter 9, verse 9
3 or 6 of Jerimiah, chapter 17, verse 11
A pinch of Leviticus, chapter 2, verse 13
1.5 cups of Judges, chapter 4 verse 19
2 teaspoons of Amos, chapter 4, verse 5 Follow Solomon for the ? for making a good ?
and you will have a good cake.

On the reverse of the sheet:

Flour, butter, sugar ? raisins, figs, almonds, honey spice, eggs, salt, baking powder and
bake well.

The following are press reports concerning Methodist activities in the following years.

Norfolk Chronicle – 12 June 1897

A bazaar was held on Monday and Tuesday at the town Hall for the purpose of defraying the debt of £60 remaining on the circuit accounts of the Wesleyan body.

Norfolk Chronicle – 30 July 1898

HUNSTANTON. The Wesleyans have held a circuit gathering for the reduction of the debt remaining on the church recently erected in this town. The Connectional committee have promised, when an additional £440 to the £680 already received has been raised, that they will give £200, and lend £100 without interest for ten years. Tho whole cost of the church was £1,540.

Norfolk News – 20 May 1899

Primitive Methodists – HUNSTANTON. A public meeting was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Tuesday, presided over the Rev. R. Holman. Capital addresses were delivered by Mr. C. Rolfe, Mr. Barnham, and Sister Lizzie [one of the Sisters of the People], who also presided the harmonium, the Burston choir assisting with the singing. A collection was taken for the Chapel Fund. Votes of thanks were passed to all who assisted in the service.

Eastern Daily Press – 23 May 1899

Wesleyan Methodists

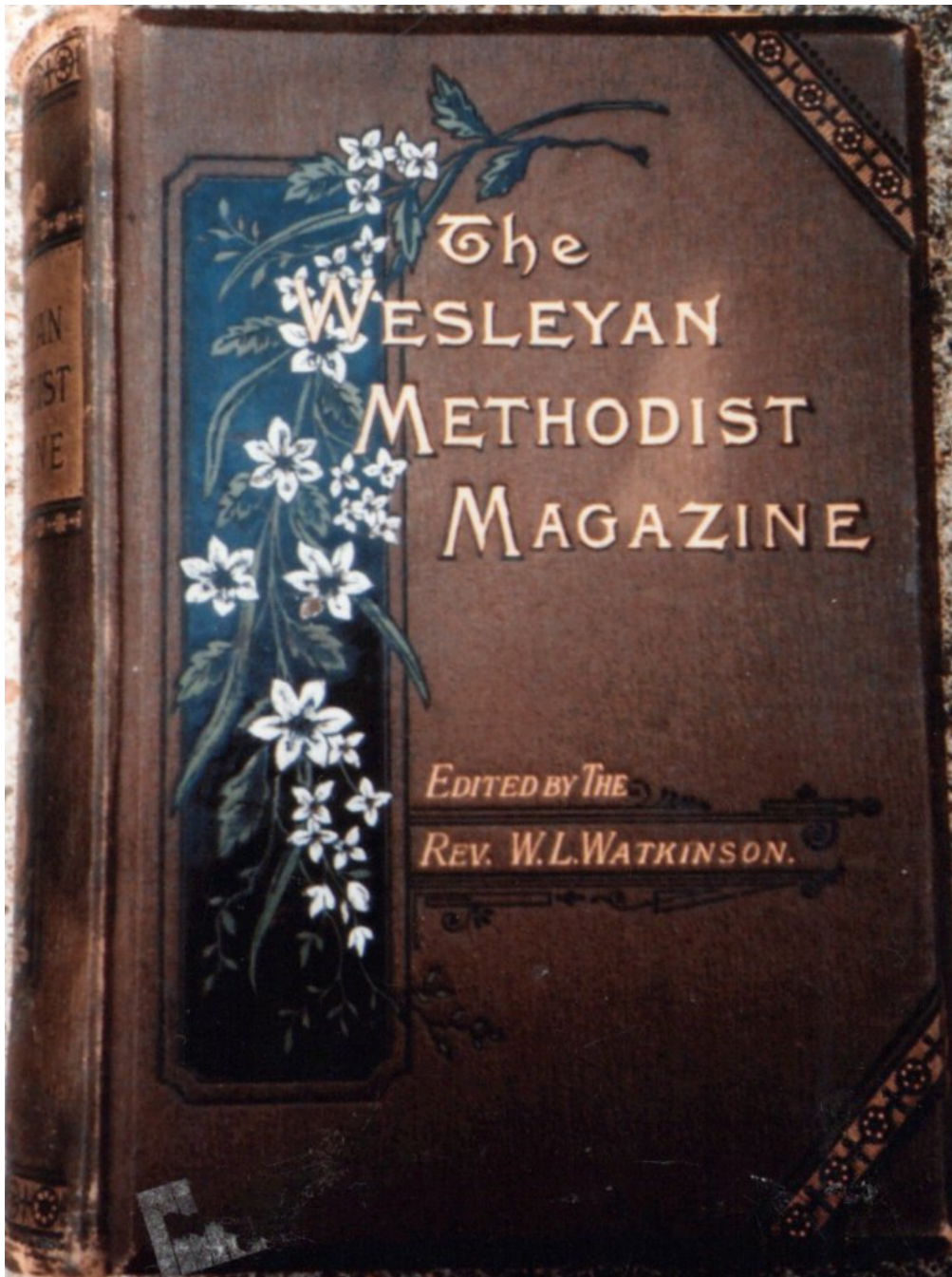
At the Town Hall, people of all denominations were invited to spend money at a bazaar, the objects of which were to clear off or reduce the debt on the Hunstanton Wesleyan Chapel. The bazaar was opened by Mr. J.C. Izard, M.A. of Cambridge. Today it will be re-opened by the Mayor of Lowestoft and on Wednesday by Mr. Ruskin Hancock of Leicester.

Eastern Evening News – 8 July 1899

EAST ANGLIAN APPOINTMENTS: WESLEYAN CONFERENCE. The first draft of stations of Wesleyan ministers was published yesterday morning. The following are the appointments for the East Anglian District:

Hunstanton (Norfolk), Richard H. Higson, who shall change one Sunday every quarter with the ministers of the Lynn Circuit, and act under the direction of the chairman of the district.

Chapter 5: Photographs and advertisements from earlier times.



Wesleyan Methodist Magazine 1902

First published as the Arminian Magazine by John Wesley in 1778. Its name was changed in 1798 to the Methodist Magazine and again in 1822 to the Wesleyan Methodist Magazine to distinguish it from other branches of Methodism.

It was published in monthly instalments and bound into annual volumes. It contained biographies of holy people, letters and accounts of pious living individuals, sermons, articles concerning faith, Christian poetry, pictures of Methodist ministers, and missionary stories.

"IN THIS GENERATION."

YOUNG METHODIST TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN
(Under the joint auspices of the Connexional Temperance, Sunday School
and Wesley Guild Departments.)

Hunstanton Wesleyan Church,
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19th, 1928.

6.30 p.m. PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION.

Speakers: **Rev. W. H. HEAP**
Rev. EDWIN FINCH
AND **"TWO YOUNG METHODISTS."**

Chairman: **Mr. A. W. FREEMAN.**

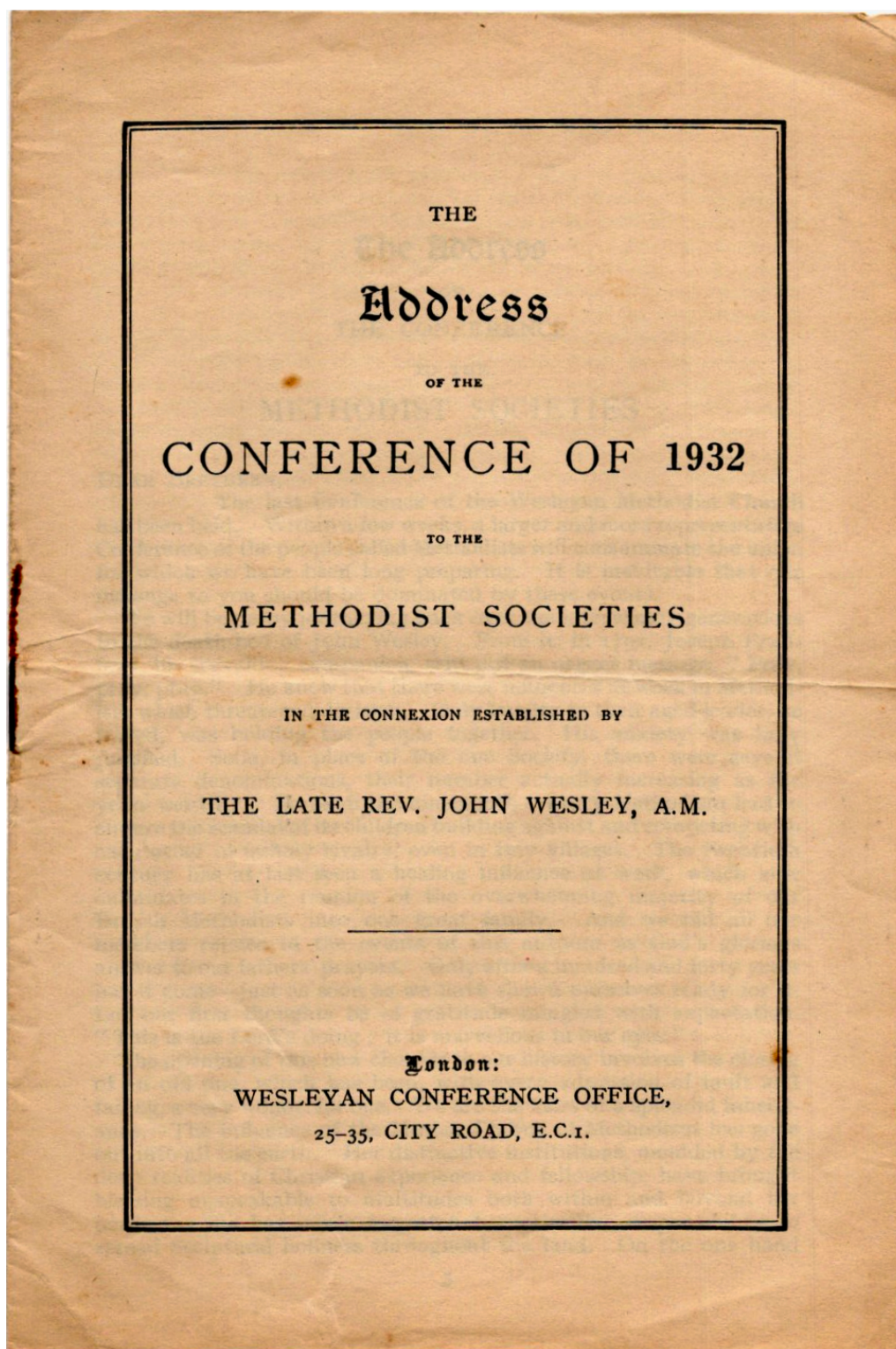
Members of Young People's Organizations cordially invited.

12421



1932

1932 was a momentous year for Methodism with the Deed of Union bringing together the Wesleyan Methodists, Primitive Methodists and the United Methodists to form The Methodist Church of Great Britain.




Also in the archive are several copies of *The Vine* magazine of the Docking Primitive Methodist Circuit. The cost of publishing would have been supported by advertisements for local companies, and a selection accompany this section. Whilst the magazine might not have been widely read by the Wesleyans, the advertisements would have been familiar.

June, 1932

THE ORGAN OF THE DOCKING PRIMITIVE METHODIST CIRCUIT

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Compare Our Prices—

We Specialise in :
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WRITE and we shall be pleased to call upon you.

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and
STATION ROAD, HEACHAM.

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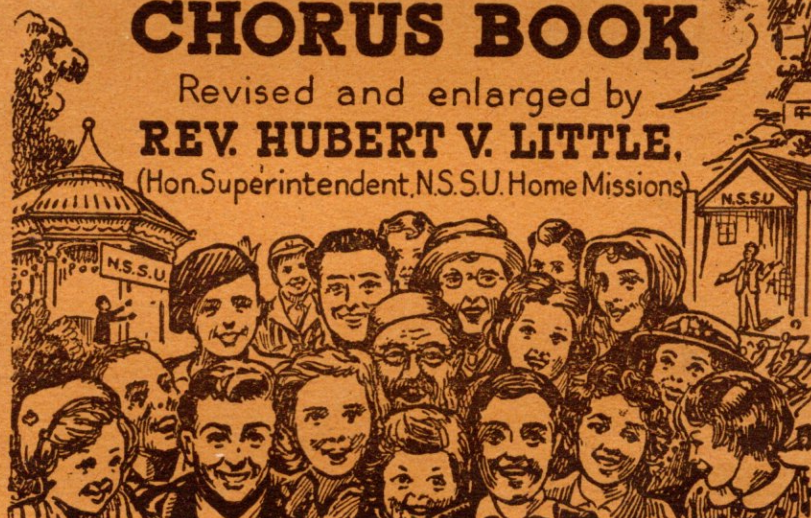
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Wedding & Birthday Cakes to order.



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150 CHORUSES

PRICE : Music—1/6 Net; Words—3d. Net.

NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION
104/5, Newgate Street, London, E. C. 1.

Chapter 6: Post WWII to present day.

1940s



Back row: E Handley, E Wyer, Rev E Warren, D Rogers, Unknown?
Front row: Mr Chilvers, Jacob Fletcher, Rev Carty



Sunday, September 26th.

Morning Service 11 a.m.
Preacher—Mr. F. CURRY.

MUSICAL SERVICE at 2.30 p.m.

J. STORER <i>Tenor</i>	F. JACKSON <i>Tenor</i>
W. POWLSON <i>Baritone</i>	L. WINFIELD <i>Bass</i>
MARGARET ATTEWELL <i>Violinist</i>	NORA FUERY <i>Cello</i>
STAN THOMAS <i>Pianoforte</i>	
NANCY TAYLOR <i>Soprano</i>	R. C. ARNOLD <i>Pianoforte</i>

President—J. STOREY, Esq.

SILVER COLLECTION.

Evening Service at 6.30.

Preacher—Rev. W. G. CARTY.

Proceeds for New Organ Fund.

METHODIST CHURCH
HUNSTANTON
CHOIR ANNIVERSARY.

*Programme of
a Grand*

CONCERT

BY THE

**GRESLEY
HARMONY QUARTETTE**

B.B.C. Artistes
First Prize Winners at all leading Concerts

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25th, 1948, at 7 p.m.**

MARGARET ATTEWELL <i>Violinist</i>	(Birmingham)	NORA FUERY <i>Cello</i>
---------------------------------------	--------------	----------------------------

STAN THOMAS
Piano

NANCY TAYLOR <i>Soprano</i>	REG ARNOLD <i>Solo Pianist</i>
--------------------------------	-----------------------------------

PROGRAMME :
TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

Chairman : DONALD H. McCULLOUGH, Esq.

Part One.

Introduction of Chairman ... Mr. J. A. Fletcher

Chairman's remarks

Instrumental Trio

Part Songs ...	Linden Lea	R. Vaughan Williams
	Hey Robin, Jolly Robin	Geoffrey Shaw

Violin Solo ... Selected
MARGARET ATTEWELL

Song ... Selected
JOE STORER

Song ... Selected
NANCY TAYLOR

Song ... Selected
WALTER POWLSON

Cello Solo ... Selected
NORA FUERY

Spirituals De animals a-comin arr. Bartholomew
Roll, Jordan, Roll!

INTERVAL.

Part Two.

Part Songs ... Dream Pedlary Hugh S. Robertson
The Old Stone House

Violin Solo ... Selected
MARGARET ATTEWELL

Song ... Selected
JOE STORER

Instrumental Trio Selected
NANCY TAYLOR

Song ... Selected
WALTER POWLSON

Pianoforte Solo ... Selected
REG. C. ARNOLD

Spiritual ... Roll Chariot ... arr. Noble Cain

THE KING.

Hunstanton Methodist Church, Austin Street.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY, JULY 10th, 1949.

MORNING 11 a.m.

AFTERNOON 2-30 p.m.

EVENING 6-30 p.m.

Preacher: WM. ARMITAGE, (*National Children's Home*).

CHILDREN'S HYMNS.

HYMN 1.

(H. Buckley).

Girls—

AND they brought young children to Jesus, they brought young children to Jesus that He should touch them.

Boys—

And His disciples rebuked those that brought them, His disciples rebuked those that brought them, but when Jesus saw it He was much displeased, He was much displeased, and said unto them

Little Ones Only—

Suffer little children to come unto me, suffer little children to come unto me,

Full—

And forbid them not, forbid them not,

Little Ones—

For of such is the Kingdom, of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Full Chorus—

And He took them up in His arms, He took them up in His arms, took them up in His arms, took them up in His arms, took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them and blessed them. He took them up in His arms, took them up in His arms, took them up in His arms, took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, put His hands upon them, and blessed them, blessed them.

Girls—

" Say who are these bringing their children to Jesus,
Why trouble the Master these infants to see?"
So spake the disciples, but Jesus rebuked them,
And said " Let the little ones come unto me."

Little Ones—

Let the little ones come, let the little ones come unto me.

Girls—

Let the little ones come.

Boys—

Let the little ones come.

Full—

Let the little ones come unto me.

Boys—

Now would I press these dear lambs to my bosom,
Their kind tender Shepherd I ever would be,
Enclosed in my fold, they'll be safe from all danger,
O then let the little ones come unto me,
Let the little ones, etc.

Girls—

Dear Jesus the Shepherd and Friend of the children,
We know Thou art bidding us come unto Thee,
O help us to hear Thee, and follow Thee ever,
Who said " let the little ones come unto me."
Let the little ones, etc.

Choir—

Kind Shepherd we bring our dear little ones to Thee,
Enclosed in Thy fold, we now wish them to be,
Till with them we hear Thee in mansions of glory,
Say " now shall the little ones come unto me."

HYMN 2.

GOD has fill'd my little heart,
With bounding life and glee;
At a touch the smiles upstart,
Troubles quickly flee.



Methodist Guild

Amongst the archives is the Winter Session programme for the end of 1948 to the first four months of 1949.

The programme is headed with the motto: *One Heart, One Way.*

This is followed by the Guild Pledge:

I will earnestly endeavour in the strength of Christ to live a truly Christian life, to read the Scriptures daily and attend to the duty of private prayer.

I will try to avoid in my daily life anything that would bring discredit upon myself or the Church of Christ and do my best to maintain the friendly spirit of the Guild.

There then follows a whole foolscap page of events.

Methodist Church
HUNSTANTON

METHODIST GUILD
WINTER SESSION, 1950—51

“ One Heart, One Way ”

Meetings—THURSDAY, 7 p.m.
Price 6d.

.....

OFFICERS:

President: REV. W. G. CARTY

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. J. T. Laws, P. Sankey,
E. W. Wyer and E. King

Secretary: Miss J. Buxton

Treasurer: Miss E. Buxton

Committee: Miss J. Sankey, Miss M. Whiting,
Mrs. J. Carty, Mrs. Watson,
Mrs. Sankey, Mr. R. Rogers and
Mr. J. Fletcher.

Pianists: Mrs. J. Carty and Miss J. Buxton

Alan Jacobs, Printer, Sedgford

Guild Syllabus and Church Calendar

1950.

- Oct. 19th.** Overseas Missions, Rev. W. J. Barrett
(3 p.m. Women's :
7 p.m. Hunstanton General work)
- 26th.** Rev. W. G. Carty
Chairman : Mr. Watson (Devotional)
- (Saturday) 28th.** Circuit Rally, Dr. Cannon (USA)
Service 3-4.5, Tea 5 p.m., Rally 6-30 p.m
- Nov.** (Special Mission Services each Sunday)
- 2nd.** 'Norfolk' slides.
Councillor E. W. Wyer, J.P. (Literary)
- 9th.** 'Lax of Poplar' Mrs. Watson
Christian Service
- 16th.** Rev. Herbert G. Hawkes
Chairman : Mr. A. Broadbent
(Devotional)
- 23rd.** Guild Social
- 26th.** Sunday Rally of Churches in the Town
Hall at 8 p.m.
- 30th.** National Children's Home
- Dec. 7th.** Circuit Quarterly Meeting
Public Meeting 7 p.m.
- 14th.** Annual Society Meeting, with reports
- 21st.** Selected... Christian Service
- 25th.** Christmas Day Service (Monday) at
Wesley, 11 a.m. Rev. G. O. Cornish
- 31st.** Rev. H. G. Hawkes (11 a.m.)
and Rev. W. G. Carty (6-30)

1951.

- Jan. 4th.** New Year Guild Social
- 11th.** Rev. G. O. Cornish Chairman :
Mr. E. Handley (Devotional)
- 18th.** The Sunday School Party
- 25th.** The Annual 'Church At Home'
- Feb. 1st.** Mr. A. Broadbent (Literary)
- 8th.** 'David Hill,' Mrs. Watson
Christian Service
- 15th.** Annual 'Home Missions' Meeting
Film—"See His Banners Go"
Guild Social
- Mar. 1st.** Mrs. Massey Chairman : Mr. R. Rogers
(Devotional)
- 8th.** Mr. H. Bath (Literary)
- 15th.** Annual Meeting for Election of Officers
- 22nd.** 'Selected' Christian Service
- 23rd.** Good Friday Service, Wesley, 11 a.m.
Rev. G. O. Cornish
- 25th.** EASTER SUNDAY

We welcome you to all our Services and Meetings.

W. G. Carty (*President*)

AUSTIN STREET METHODIST CHURCH
Hunstanton

HARRISON SLATER

(Elocutionist, Derby)

... PRESENTS ...

"Good-bye, Mr. Chips"

(James Hilton)

Tuesday, April 22nd, 1952
at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman - STANLEY PIPER, ESQ.

Soloist - ANNE PALLISTER

Accompanist - MR. H. H. KNIGHT

PROGRAMMES 2/6

Proceeds for Church Funds

Harrison Slater



Recitals

Recital.

Selections from

"Good-Bye, Mr. Chips"

by James Hilton

Characters:

MR. CHIPPING	...	...	...	...	---
Mrs. Wickett	...	...	...	...	His Landlady
Doctor Merivale	...	...	...	...	---
Katherine Bridges	...	...	...	...	---
Wetherby	...	...	...	...	Headmaster in 1870
Ralston	...	...	...	...	" 1900-1911
Chatteris	...	...	...	...	" 1911-1917
Cartwright	...	...	...	...	" 1918-1933
Sir John Rivers	...	...	...	...	Chairman of Governors
A Private Soldier	...	...	...	...	---

Linford and other boys at school

Scene:
Brookfield School

Time:
1870 - 1933

Episodes:

1..... Twilight

A great joke this growing old—Reminiscences—
His appointment—Taking first prep.—Spring
1896—Climbing Great Gable—Katherine—"I
shall call you, Chips"—Marriage—April 1st, 1898.

2..... Eventide

Classed as "old"—Meeting L.G.—Railway Strike
—News of the *Titanic*—The row with Ralston—
—Chips resigns—War—"I'll come....."

3..... Nightfall

Acting Head for "duration"—Air raid—Armistice
—Post-war years—Nov., 1933—"Good-Bye, Mr.
Chips"—... "a last joke, my boys"—Asleep.

The Messenger

Editor

Miss B. V. LONG,
Docking Road,
Sedgeford,
King's Lynn.

Treasurer and Advertising
Manager:

Mr. S. E. BIRD,
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News-letter of
the Hunstanton
and Docking
Methodist Circuit

Ministers:

Rev. J. WINN.

Rev. G. THOMPSON.

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER.

TEN minutes before I began to write this message to you, I sat here in my room in quiet prayer. During that time, I called clearly to mind one person in each of our societies and as I did so there came to me a wonderful experience. I found as I prayed for you one at a time, you all came together in my thought and were very real and near to me here. The distances between you all vanished, the many villages where you live disappeared and this great circuit became personal in this moment of devotion. Now as I write these thoughts to you all, I do deeply desire this experience for you all, and to that end I dedicate this message.

Prayer in your own home.

HOME is a lovely word and surely it means that "at home" we are just our true and natural selves, and our life together is personal. How often it is that here in our own homes we can all become socially together, materially together and yet spiritually miles apart. What could our life at home be like if we learnt to really pray for each other! Home offers each one of us great liberty, and we can so easily misuse it. We can speak together at home, say things to one another at home, and do things to one another at home very differently from anywhere else. Perhaps this is where we learn the beginnings of the experience I told you about. Learning day by day to pray for each other in our homes . . . and to pray for each other not in a matter-of-fact way but lovingly, thoughtfully and very personally. I am sure as the altar of prayer is kindled again in our homes, so that same altar will kindle again in our chapels. May I commend this to you?

Prayer at our work.

JUST as life without a home would be very dreary, life without work would be worse. Yet what a difference there is between when we are at home and when we are at work! At home we are with our own, at work, with others. Difficulties and problems arise; ideas clash, consciences collide, authority chafes and often tempers and nerves get badly frayed. We perhaps have to work with folk we don't like and folk who don't like us. How easy it is to argue and get caught up in most unhappy tensions! Even here in the workaday world this sane thought is very appropriate. Learn to pray for the folk you work with, and pray for them as you pray for your own, affectionately, forgivingly and personally. Let us always remember as Jesus told us, that our relationship with God is very intimately bound up with our relationship to our fellowmen and fellow women. God's forgiveness of our short comings is inseparable from our forgiveness of those who trespass against us. This too I do sincerely commend to you.

Prayer in our church.

THIS last I want to emphasise very much. Even when we are in our churches and chapels, we are not immune from perils, failures and familiarities. It is very easy to leave the burden of our prayer upon the preacher. Surely it should be that when in God's house, our prayer should be at its very best. It should be uppermost in our minds when we take our seat in the pew and uppermost in our mind until we go home again. Prayer is really something we do with our souls and hearts . . . not merely our tongues . . . Pray for the preacher that he or she may be helped to make God more real to you yourself . . .

1960s and 70s: Children and Youth Activities

For many years Hunstanton Methodist Church had thriving Sunday School classes and youth activities. There is still a Sunday class for children and an activity space at the back of the worship area.

There is a notebook from the 1960's containing minutes of the Sunday School Committee. At the back are lists of requirements for several Sunday school parties. Here is the list for a party on 4 February 1961:

To cater for 70 children:

<i>3 bottles orange squash</i>	<i>2lb margarine</i>	<i>12 jellies</i>
<i>6 doz bottles of minerals</i>	<i>1lb butter</i>	<i>1 tin fruit cocktail</i>
<i>quarter pound tea</i>	<i>2 boxes cheese spread</i>	<i>6 boxes crackers</i>
<i>2lb sugar</i>	<i>1lb cheese</i>	<i>6 doz oranges</i>
<i>6 pints milk</i>	<i>18 eggs</i>	<i>6 doz apples</i>
<i>packet of straws</i>	<i>8 bundles cress</i>	<i>6 doz 6p choc</i>
<i>10 sliced loaves</i>	<i>20 dozen small cakes</i>	<i>4lb sweets</i>

This press cutting and photograph shows Charlie Frammingham supervising young people working on a vegetable garden.

This appears to be at the back of the church and would have been before the hall was built in the late 1960's.



Amongst the archives is a ring binder of press cuttings, journals and papers relating to a particularly active time in the 1960's and 70's. The first page has the rules for Hunstanton Methodist Church Youth Club, signed by Mary Buxton, Valerie Taylor and Philip Taylor, dated 29 June 1962. This has the declaration *This is to certify that Jean Parton s a full member of the club.*

Underneath the form it is noted: *When the Youth Club was first started, the club rules were rather different from they are now. The Rev S Holt was then Minister, and this was in 1962. In the following pages we are going to illustrate to you the various events of our Youth Club from 1966 – 1970. As you will see, our Youth Club has helped to raise money for many different campaigns; all were supported and rewarded well.*

The following pages start with sponsored walks, accompanied by photos and press cuttings.

A press photo from March 1967, features John Ward receiving a Juvenile Missionary Association certificate from Rev A Fairhurst. It is noted that John collected £30. 4s. 4d.

There is an East Anglia leaflet about the needs of Haiti and an appeal for help. Presumably, the Youth Club would have been involved in fund-raising. I sent a copy to The Rev The Lord Leslie Griffiths, who spent a number of years in Haiti as Methodist Minister.

There are letters in 1969 from Lincoln City Council thanking the Youth Club for help given when a party of young people camped for two weeks in Hunstanton.



Sponsored walk for YMCA 1966



The programme and press cuttings for the stone-laying ceremony for the School Hall [church hall] in August 1969 are included.



There is an interesting letter dated 9 December 1969 from British Railways, giving permission (with conditions) for the Youth Club to walk along the King's Lynn – Hunstanton Railway line. A hand-written note mentions some walkers suffering from knocked and bruised ankles from the railway lines!

February 1970 saw the Youth Club organise a sponsored *Knit-In*, and a Valentine Social, with prizes for the 'Funniest and Prettiest Valentine Card'.

The Youth Club's involvement with the national Methodist Association of Youth Clubs is well documented. In addition to district events, Youth Club members also participated in huge gatherings in London. Cliff Richard featured at a MAYC event in the Royal Albert Hall in 1971.

A barn-dance took place in the Church Hall, and it is noted *To Make the hall look more like a barn, straw was put on the floor and lanterns were put around the hall.*

In July 1972 some members of the Youth Club stayed at Dhalling Manor Methodist Guild Holiday Home in Dunoon. A hand-written note next to a postcard: *A very hot week – the only hot week of the year!*

There is also a black & white photo of a large group of people (next page). An accompanying hand-written note names some of them: Leslie Parton, Mervyn King, Sally Russell, Johnny Rutter, John Ward, Heather Smalls and Jean Parton. Also noted: *Sally Barker decided to hide.*

Another page has a postcard of Plas-Y-Coed guest house, Colwyn Bay. A hand-written note describes it as a Methodist Guild Holiday Home in July, 1973. Those attending were John Ward, Sally Barker, Sally Russell, Mervyn King and Jean Parton, all spending a week there.



In 1973 the Youth Club took part in the MAYC Go Great. A hand-written note: *The Youth Club had several efforts for this scheme, the first being the 'Christmas Flop', which it was! Carol-singing on Christmas Eve at the Golden Lion and Le Strange hotels raised approximately £11.*

In May 1973, the Youth Club played a 24-hour table tennis marathon, raising £35 for the MAYC *Share the Shell* week.



Table tennis marathon. John Ward, Sally Moffat, Johnny Rutter, Sally Barker, ?, Ricky Bellars, Martin Steward, Richard Smith, Janice Trundley, Debbie Callaby, Sally Crussell.

From the local newspaper: "Next weekend over 12,000 Methodist Youth Club members from all over Britain will be invading London for a special weekend" designed to give a sense of purpose and experience of fellowship with others". Among them will be five members of Hunstanton Methodist Youth Club.

The weekend will include a folk festival, national five-a-side soccer and netball competitions, a show at the Royal Albert Hall in which about 1,000 club members will be taking part, and a special service on Sunday morning which is to be televised by the BBC."



On the way to London. 1973



St James Park, London. 1973

October 1973 saw the Youth Club heading to Lincolnshire for an event named *Skegness Rock*.

The binder finishes with the following note: *1974 saw a change of leadership at the Club. The Youth Club had to be closed in March owing to lack of leaders. The membership was 50-60 each Friday at this time. After much prayer and thought the Club re-opened in September when Alec and Florence Callaby offered to take over leadership.*

In looking through this binder, I am struck by so many happy, smiling young people and no doubt they will have had many happy memories. Surviving in the archive is a beautiful large green banner with *Hunstanton Methodist Church Youth Club* in gold lettering.

Recollections from John Ward

“As for the Youth Club of my day, it was run by Jean Parton, and Charlie & Betty Framingham who also ran the Sunday School, with classes in the morning and afternoon. It was the afternoon session when we did most of the work for the Scripture Union exams. One of the highlights of the year had to be the stage that Charlie built in front of the church for us all to sit on for the Sunday School Anniversary each year. Good job there was no Health & Safety requirements in those days!

The Youth Club was heavily committed to MAYC. On one occasion our region was picked for one of the displays at the Royal Albert Hall, where there were two shows on the Saturday that went alongside the services held at Westminster Methodist Central Hall. I was involved and I can't remember the themes, but I had to be strapped inside a model T Ford and carry it around the floor of the hall!

Jean Parton used to take us on holidays at Methodist Guild hostels. These gave us our first taste of being away with friends, and sometimes brothers and sisters. On one holiday Jean even lent her car to her brother and I to drive to Gange over Sands for a week. Another great holiday was spent sailing on the Norfolk Broads with the Rev Brian Dams, who was the Minister at Docking. We stayed in a converted barn on the Broads and spent the week sailing and canoeing. All very basic, but what good fun. One job we had to do each morning was collecting the milk from the farm next door. Jean was a wonderful leader.

The old tin hut (the hall that used to be sited next to the church on what is now the car park, and before the brick church hall was built) was a wonderful place to meet for Friday Youth Club. It was basic, but we really enjoyed the fellowship, table tennis and a host of activities. When club sessions finished, we used to walk home alone at about 10pm and hope the chippy in Greevegate was still open for a bag of chips.

Youth Club members that went to chapel used to sit in the back row on a Sunday night and then head off to someone's house for snacks before going home. We often went to Janet Fairhurst's, the manse, in the street for 'Snack & Music' nights. In the summer we

would head down to the front and watch people skating at the fairground or walk out to the pier.

The Christmas carol singing at the Golden Lion and Le Strange hotels was given extra sparkle by the candles that Mrs Freebairn, the owner, who lit real candles on the tree for us to sing against. Fire risk? What fire risk; it was her tradition!

We were given a lot of freedom in those days, with none of the safeguarding worries we have today.”

Thank you, John, for these reminiscences of happy times.

March 1982

The *Bulletin for March 1982* shows that Sunday services that were held at Austin Street took place at 10.30am and 6.30pm, with Sunday School at 10.30am. On Tuesdays a Bible Study Fellowship was held at a private house. Wednesdays saw the church open for prayer from 7.00am for 30 minutes. Wednesday was the time for the Women’s Fellowship in the afternoon and the Wednesday Group in the evening. Interspersed on other days were occasional circuit meetings and committees.

This particular *Bulletin* had the ‘Good News’ that a substantial debt on the ‘Roof Fund’ had been virtually cleared and the deficit was now only £93. A short service of Thanksgiving would be held at the beginning of the Church Annual General Meeting. Less good, was the report from the Property Steward that on several occasions the electric heaters in the Gallery Vestry had been left on!

HUNSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH
26th—28th September 1986

**ABUNDANT LIFE
WEEKEND**

Jesus said:
"I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly." John 10 v. 10

Dear Father God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its true name, from the wealth of your glory give each member of our congregation: power through your spirit to be strong in our inner selves; a desire to discover the vastness of Christ's love; and a willingness so to live that others with whom we meet may see some measure of this great love.

To God be the glory in the church for all time.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Minister & Friends of Hunstanton Methodist Church
invite*

*to a Centenary Celebration on Saturday, May 18th 1996
at 3.00p.m. for Tea & Evening Meeting at
Hunstanton Methodist Church Hall.*

*Speaker
Rev. Mary Bailey*

R.S.V.P. by May 6th, 1996
to:
Mrs. B. Frammingham,
6, Cheney Crescent,
Heacham, King's Lynn,
Norfolk. PE31 7BT.

Charitable fundraising

National Children's Home

For a number of years Doreen Ward organised collections for the Methodist National Children's Home (now known as Action for Children). Doreen was famous for her Strawberry Teas, served at Wallace & Doreen's home. These occasions were more than just strawberries, always accompanied by delicious cakes. People gave generously to this worthy cause.

In July 2008 the church also supported a campaign by NCH 'Tuppenny Rush', to assemble the largest ever amount of 2p coins. The inspiration for this event was the Saturday morning children's film shows in days gone by which were known by this name in the 30's and 40's as the admission price was 2d.

Wallace & Doreen also hosted similar events to raise money for worthy causes, including Killer TB and Water-Aid.

One event put on by Denis & Jean Broadway in May 2008 stands out. This was a social event named 'Desert Island' with the caption of 'Grass Skirts Optional'; the records do not mention if anyone adopted this style of dress!

One World Week

Pat Sharman recalls being asked to put on an Indian cuisine dinner in October during One World Week. Pat was told to cater for 20 people; in the event news must have spread, because nearer 50 turned up! Perhaps a parallel can be drawn with the Feeding of the Five Thousand, in that all got something to eat and the event was a great success.

Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA)

The church has been a supporter for many years. Pat Sharman recalls organising a quiz night, which attracted fellow Methodists from other parts of the circuit.

Fairtrade and Traidcraft

Hunstanton Methodist Church has pursued the notion of Fairtrade for some years (with some gaps). Richard and Joy Webb were active members for a number of years until moving to the Peak District. Joy was a great advocate for Traidcraft and Fairtrade, ensuring that Fairtrade products were used in the kitchen. Joy also ran a Traidcraft stall in the link after Sunday worship. Here Joy shares her reminiscences.

"We moved to Hunstanton in December 2005 and began attending the Methodist Church in early 2006. We were received into membership on 2 April. We found it a very friendly and welcoming church where even we incomers were included and listened to. Earlier that year we had gone to a café service in the church hall, and it had a Fairtrade theme! Wallace Ward was the main speaker. I had been a Traidcraft voluntary representative for some 13 years by then and it was great to feel the level of support for

Fairtrade in the Hunstanton Methodist Church family. On 7 May we went to the church annual meeting, and I think it was then that I asked if it would be possible to have a Traidcraft stall once a month, after the morning service. There were no objections, and I had the first one on Sunday 4 June – “It went well.”

Through the years till we left I really appreciated the support of the church members, many of them without much spare cash but willing to spend a bit more on Fairtrade products because they knew the importance of fairness, in trade as in all other matters. The support of the regular sales at the church built up the profile of Fairtrade and Traidcraft in Hunstanton and the surrounding villages and I got invited to have a stall and/or give a talk to many different groups in many different places, including the sixth form at Smithdon High School (thanks to Rev Kim Nally’s wife who taught there).

And with the church committing to using only Fairtrade coffee and tea etc, before long it had been awarded a Fairtrade Church certificate, which was renewed each year that we were there – and I think that despite my efforts, it was the only church in Hunstanton to qualify.”

Face Up, Stand Up, Speak Up

In 2007 Richard & Joy Webb commenced hosting a monthly meeting in their home. The purpose was to explore, discuss, pray about and campaign on the big issues which confront us as Christian members of a local community, national society and worldwide humankind.

A Plea for Help

The church notices for November 2007 include a plea for warm blankets to cover the organ in winter.

From Town and Around in 2014

It was with sadness that we said "Farewell" to our Minister, Kim Nally.

We presented him with a large card in which all the members of our congregation had written a message thanking him for the ways he has touched their lives in the time of his ministry here and wishing him all the very best in his retirement.

It was fitting that Kim's last service with us was on the theme of love for he has consistently preached the Gospel of Love.

Included were those wonderful verses at the end of Romans chapter 8: "For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below - there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord." But we cannot keep God's love to ourselves, it only works if we share it!

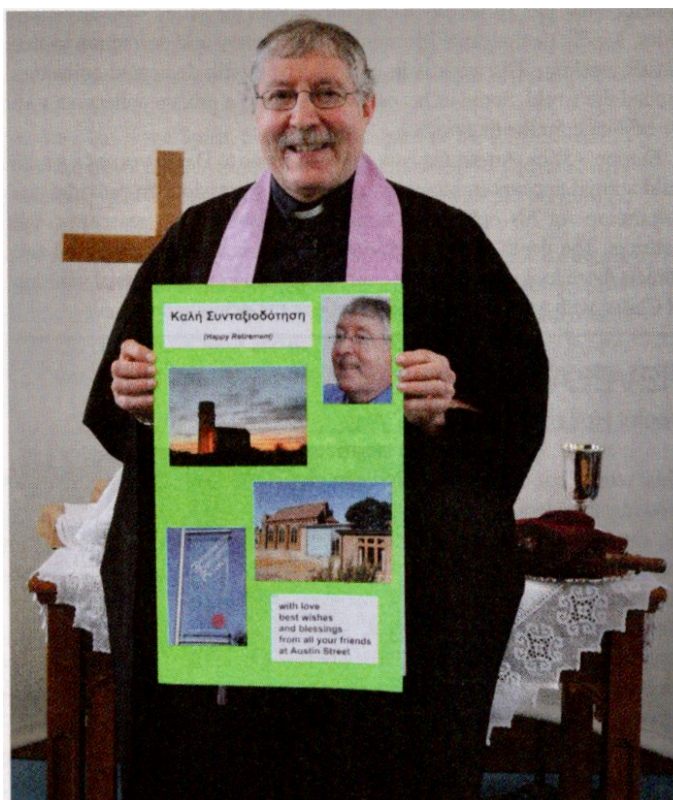
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, which runs from 11th - 17th May, gives all of us an opportunity to share the love of God. The theme this year is "Fear Less" and we are asked to pray for and donate to help those whose lives have been torn apart by conflict.

In 2014 the 1st World War which started 100 years ago is of course very much in our minds. It is worth remembering that this was the last major war in which most of those who died so young or were wounded so horribly were soldiers, sailors and airmen. Since then most casualties in all conflicts have been civilians - old men, women and children.

"War tears lives apart. Love can piece them back together again Lord, make us instruments of your peace."

Please, give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week. There will be gift envelopes available in the churches or, to donate f5 today, simply text GIVE to 60155. In the Methodist Church we are holding a special Christian Aid Week service on Sunday 11th May, beginning at 10.30am. Why not join us? You will be very welcome.

Joy Webb



Mission Aviation Fellowship

In February 2017 it would be fair to say that there was a bit of a sensation in the car park – an aircraft! The church had decided to raise funds for Mission Aviation Fellowship, a charity which flies aid and medical supplies to remote areas of third world countries. The aircraft did not actually fly in, but arrived on a trailer with fuselage and wings. The wings were then bolted on. It of course attracted much attention and raised the profile of this charity. The church raised over £1,000.



HMC Serving the Community

Hunstanton Methodist Church (HMC) has always been a lively fellowship and in addition to worship, offers a range of activities, open to all.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust

For many years a branch held monthly meetings in the hall, but this has either folded or moved to other premises.

Lip Reading

The Sanctuary (school room) was used for a number of years for lip reading classes.

Salvation Army

For many years the Salvation Army's East Anglia Caravan Club used to camp around Whitsun each year at the Glebe House School. Charlie and Betty Frammingham made the initial contact. Later, Dennis and Jean Broadway had contacts with the Salvation Army and would arrange for the caravan club to bring their brass instruments for a concert/rally at Hunstanton Methodist Church on a summer's evening. The church would be packed, and the singing would be rousing indeed! The weather was not always kind and on one occasion the dear Salvationists had to literally hang on to their tents and awnings during a night of violent gales, lest they be blown away! In common with all activities, the caravan club ceased visiting Hunstanton during the Covid pandemic. As far as is known, it no longer visits Hunstanton, but sadly contact was lost with passing of Dennis and Jean.

Baby and Toddler Group

Since April 30th 2025, we have been running a "stay and play" parent, baby and toddler group at our church. We have received funding from Hunstanton Charity Shop and from the East Anglian Methodist District, for which we are very grateful.

We have two church members regularly setting up the hall, both of whom have advanced safeguarding training and DRB checks. Two other church members are available to help occasionally and have had DRB checks.

Second-hand toys and books were donated by a number of church members and by visitors to our Warm Space on Thursday morning. We were also able to access donations of books from the local Bookstart service, via the local library. We have had visits from a health visitor and from the local Children and Families team.

Grant money was used to purchase a storage chest, a large rug, some soft play blocks, and a blackboard/whiteboard and easel.



About 12 children and their parents or grandparents have attended this group at various times. Their carers have been able to make friends and have a coffee or tea. The children are provided with a fruit snack. New members are always welcomed.

The sessions end with some nursery rhymes/singing and the families help us to tidy up the hall. The children have been taken into the church twice, once during the Flower Festival and once before Christmas, for a little carol service. Children were given a teddy each at Christmas.

We have been advertising the group on various Facebook groups and Instagram, and there have been articles in Town and Around. We are registered with the borough council.

We are also linked into a district-wide support group for churches working with children and families in West Norfolk, which can provide advice and some resources. There is a family hub based at St Faith's Church in King's Lynn, and advice is also provided for local families via Hunstanton Library.

Fellowship Discussion Group

Bible study meetings have of course been a regular feature of Christian life at our church from the earliest days. This has continued, with occasional breaks, and the monthly Monday evening meetings have recently broadened to become a Fellowship Discussion Group, but still with bible study at the heart.

Monthly Lunches

For a number of years HMC monthly lunches were served in the hall. Tables would be set out, covered with white tablecloths. Initially food was cooked in the hall kitchen, but this eventually became difficult. Agreement was reached with the junior school for the main course and desert to come from the school kitchen in special heat-retaining containers. Upon arrival the temperature of each container was carefully checked and then volunteers served the meals, which were taken to the tables, again, by volunteer 'waiters' and 'waitresses'. Tea and coffee was served from the church kitchen. Volunteers tackled the huge washing-up operation!

Christmas was of course special, with the usual fare and crackers. The hall would be decorated. There would be music and carols at the end and as everyone left, they were given a goody bag.

These lunches were not just for our fellowship, but open to the community. We organised a specially adapted minibus for those with mobility problems. It was heartening to hear the nice remarks from these lovely people, and it was clear that they eagerly looked forward to their monthly lunch and time of fellowship.

Sadly, with an aging fellowship, the time came when we no longer had sufficient able-bodied people to run the lunches, and they had to cease.

Carpet Bowls

It is unclear when carpet bowls started, but for many years they would take place in the hall, with Wallace Ward organising. In his later years, Wallace retired, and his place was ably taken by John Utteridge. A specially built cupboard is at one end of the hall and houses the carpet on a large roller with bowls and associated equipment. Sessions take place on Monday and Friday afternoons and are attended by members of our fellowship and the wider community. Carpet bowls can be exciting just to watch and is much enjoyed. There is always an interval for tea & biscuits.

Ladies Fellowship

There used to be a Ladies Fellowship every Tuesday. Surviving details are scant, but it is believed Nellie Bates and Doreen Ward were the prime movers.

Warm Space

When the Covid pandemic had subsided in 2022, it was followed by a time of rising energy costs, so much so that some were struggling financially and could not afford to heat their homes. Chief Steward Jean Hornbuckle and the leadership team decided to offer refreshments and a chance to chat, in the cosy surroundings of the Link. This was every Thursday, from 10.00am to 12.00 noon, and commenced on 29 December 2022. It should be stressed that this was open to the entire community – not just members of our fellowship. Such has been the popularity, that 'Warm Space' continued throughout

the year, including the summer when perhaps 'Chill Out' might be more appropriate! By networking through Churches Together in Hunstanton, similar warm spaces were available on other days in the town. Warm Space continues.

Time 4 a Yarn

This group of knitters was started by Pauline Scotney. It is a time to enjoy fellowship while knitting. The group has undertaken several projects in support of the church and wider community. Two examples are the knitted figures and flags used to decorate a model naval ship (made by Carl Clayton) to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe 1945); and a beautiful Christmas Tree which won 1st prize in the Hunstanton Christmas Tree Festival 2024. The basis of the tree was fashioned in wire netting, with knitted squares laid over, finished with knitted angels and figures. After Christmas, the squares were knitted together to form blankets and donated locally.

External Hirings

Our premises are well situated, with the advantage of our own car park. Making the premises available for external hirings not only brings in vital income but also showcases our church. There is always the hope that people will be moved to try one of our services. There are of course controls on permitted hirings as laid down by the Methodist Church of Great Britain, such as no alcohol or gambling. This is explained to potential hirers, and all are required to sign a hiring agreement.

Uniformed Children's Organisations

The premises is a popular place for uniformed children's organisations to have 'sleepovers'. These have included brownies, girl guides, boys brigade and girls brigade groups. Some have been locally based, but many have come from away. The children use the hall to sleep and have meals, with supervising adults using the adjoining sanctuary and church vestry. For some children, this is their first experience of sleeping away from home. Our well-equipped kitchen is used to satisfy healthy young appetites! Sometimes it is a real pleasure to have visiting children join us for Sunday worship.

Stroke Group

The Stroke Group uses the premises every Tuesday morning. These sessions are to help stroke survivors with professional advice and companionship. We are always happy to arrange special services, such as Christmas.

Dog Training

For many years now the hall has been hired for dog trainers. These professionals bring their own mats and leave the hall clean after each session. Our premises are well placed, with the car par and of course there is the Recreation Ground across the road.

Red Hat Ladies

The ladies find the Link a warm comfortable place to enjoy their time together.

New Hunstanton Women's Institute

For many years the WI has held meetings in the hall. 2026 is their 80th anniversary.

Recorder Group

This small group meets each week, either in the Link or Worship area.

Model Railway Group

The group hires the hall for a programme of Saturday afternoon sessions, when enthusiasts bring their models. These include full steam locomotives!

Northfields Allotments Club

For a number of years the club held its Annual General Meeting in the hall.

Martial Arts

A recent addition to organisations hiring the hall.

Redevelopment 2009

In 2006 a series of meetings took place to consider a proposal to refurbish the church and form a link with the church hall. In early 2007 it was agreed to appoint PDG Architects Ltd to undertake a feasibility study for the provision of a new welcoming entrance area, together with associated repair and renewal works. The most recent Quinquennial inspection had identified a number of issues that needed addressing: decaying stone window surrounds, mullions, and transoms; buckling of coloured leaded lights; repair of water-damaged roof timbers and lime plaster wall finishes.

PDG Architects came up with the creation of a new principal entrance to create a positive image for the church buildings, and to serve both the worship area and hall. The 'Link' as it became known would be light and airy and enable people to see into the premises, thus removing any visual barriers that might deter them having a closer look.

With the new main entrance being at the north end, this gave an opportunity to re-configure the worship area. The wooden pews, which were not part of the original fittings, together with the raised pulpit and sanctuary area were removed, allowing the formation of a new entrance to the re-oriented worship space. New chairs allowed flexibility in how they were arranged to suit different forms of worship or other activities. The wainscot panelling to the walls was retained, as was the internal glazed doors and screens.

A raised platform in four sections was installed at the front on which rested the lectern and communion table. A stunning new tensile fabric canopy was installed to create a focal point, reminiscent of a sail of a boat, recognising that Hunstanton is a seaside town and still further biblical imagery. The 'sail' offered the possibility of projecting images onto the surface.

The project cost £300,000. The sale of another church in the circuit enabled the project to proceed. It was also most helpful that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had cut VAT (Valued Added Tax) after the financial crash of 2008.

Interestingly, here are the costs of earlier buildings:

- 'Tin Hut' first building on the site cost £170 in 1889.
- The church of 1896 cost £1,717 6s 7d.
- The church hall cost £9,990 17s 10d in 1970.

The church fellowship undertook various fund-raising events, such as a strawberry cream tea, tabletop sales and collecting 20p coins.

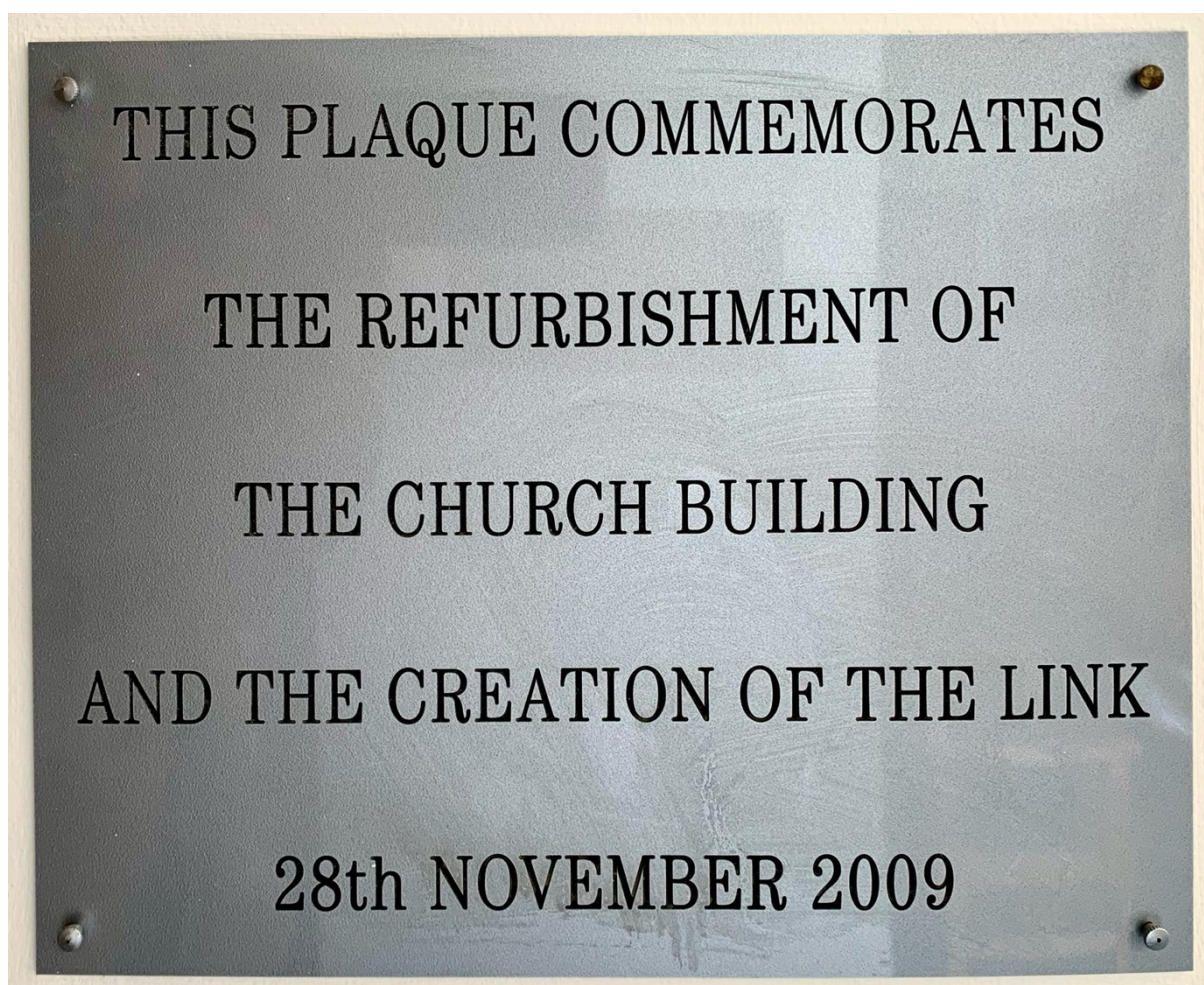
Richard Webb was appointed Chair of the Property Committee and offers the following reflections.

It was good to have such a visionary architect, who himself was a Methodist and so understood how the church worked and what was needed. It was he who proposed turning the worship area around, getting rid of the huge pulpit and pews and building the link between church and hall. However, it was (almost all) the church members who

accepted these radical ideas – with enthusiasm! The best parts of the refurbishment were:

- *The sail, the perfect focal point for worship, the association with Christ preaching from the boat.*
- *The moveable platform which meant worship could be in rows or in the round.*
- *The big window between the church and the link, making the worship area open and visible to all. A friend from one of the villages who used to come to Norfolk Wildlife Trust meetings in the hall never realised it had any connection with the church; joining physically made such a difference.*
- *The accessibility for all.*
- *The very good quality unisex toilets in the link (now these were somewhat controversial! A compromise was agreed, keeping the Ladies in the hall).*
- *The large window in the link, opening the building to passers-by and the blue outside lighting, commented on by a small boy who said to his mum “You know, the blue church!” Sadly, this was vandalised and not replaced.*

From my diary, Saturday 28 November 2009: “The big day – church rededication service in the afternoon, with President of Conference preaching. Church packed and a very good service, all went very well. The architect, builder etc all there.”





A café church service



People

A special afternoon service took place on 23 January 2011, to celebrate the 100th birthday of our oldest member, Kath Softley. She had selected the hymns, some of which went back to her earliest days in Sunday School – Kath had no need of a hymn book as she still knew the words off by heart.

BJ puppets:



Puppeteers Brian & Josephine Griffin would occasionally bring their distinctive form of worship. A curtained structure would be located at the front of the church and Brian & Josephine would position themselves behind this before worship commenced. It is fair to say that this unique form of service was popular amongst young and old alike and was a fine way of getting the Christian message across.

With what turned out to be perfect timing, Brian & Josephine were planned to take a service when a Girl's Brigade unit from Bedfordshire had been 'camping' in the church hall over the weekend. It was a memorable send-off for the girls before they departed for home.

2015: "Golden anniversary couple reaffirm their vows"

Married on 20th February 1965 Pauline and David Scotney reaffirmed their vows at Hunstanton Methodist Church on Sunday 22nd February in a ceremony that mirrored their original wedding service fifty years earlier.

With their Best Man Paul Burdock and Bridesmaids Judith Scotney and Julie Goodacre in attendance along with friends and family the service conducted by Rev Steve Oliver was followed by lunch for eighteen at Caley Hall, Old Hunstanton.



Pauline said: "We had a wonderful day; the service was on the theme of love; David and I chose all the hymns and to have our sons and their families there made the day very special."

“Doreen serves lunches for twenty years”

Doreen Hemming (on the left) is presented with some flowers by Di Cosby as an appreciation for her twenty years serving as a helper at the Hunstanton Methodist Church monthly lunches.



Humour

A quotation often used by Dennis Broadway is still in use: 'If you see someone who hasn't got a smile, then give 'em yours'.

Summertime at Hunstanton Methodist Church only began when David Ralphs appeared in shorts!

The Absentee's Alphabet

This appeared in a Hunstanton Circuit 'Carbecue' programme, May 1976.

I'd like to go to church, but....

A is for Auntie, who will come to tea,
B is for bed, which won't release me,
C is for car – "we need the fresh air"
D is for dinner that Mum must prepare,
E is for enthusiasm, which I haven't got,
F is for foursome, which golfs quite a lot,
G is for garden, much "nearer God's heart",
H is for husband, who wont play his part,
I for intruders who sit in my pew,
J for jealousy shown by a few,
K is for knitting, which Mum likes so much,
L the old language, it's so out of touch,
M is for money, they always want more,
N for the new tunes that I've not heard before,
O is for overtime, double on Sunday,
P the preparing I must do for Monday,
Q for queer noises which come from the choir,
R for robed parson, he ought to retire,
S is for sermons, as dull as can be,
T for the telly I must really see,
U for unfriendliness I always find,
V for the voice of the woman behind,
W for weather, too much rain or snow,
X is for extras, too busy to go,
Y for young rowdies who sit at the back,
Z is for zeal – and that's just what I lack.

Climate and Justice Group

The 15 churches in West Norfolk Methodist Circuit are twinned with Matjinge Methodist Circuit, Zimbabwe, in a mutually supportive partnership.

One of our Ministers, Rev. Dr Richman Ncube, grew up in Matjinge and was educated at Matjinge High School, which is run by the Methodist Circuit.

We aim to support the Matjinge Circuit as it addresses the many challenges it faces.

Fundraising is promoted by the Crowdfunder web platform:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/west-norfolk-methodist-circuit-1136177>

The following is taken from the fundraising webpage.

Matjinge is a rural community in the beautiful province of Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe.

<https://youtu.be/LabT4qbR3KQ>



The Superintendent of the Methodist Circuit is Rev Julius Tonderai Muteve.



He covers a large rural area with 19 Methodist Societies and two church buildings, at Gwambe and Ngwana.

Having no car, Rev Muteve has to walk up to 25 km a day to visit his congregations.

Matjinge Methodist Mission runs a Primary School and boarding High School. About 195 children attend the High School. Simple dormitories accommodate 120 boarders, 75 girls and 45 boys. Many are orphans.



There are also day scholars at the High School and at the Primary School; some walk over 20 kilometres every day between home and school. Up to 600 children attend the Primary School.



Most of the children’s guardians or parents live and work abroad in South Africa, Namibia, or Botswana, where they can earn more money than in Zimbabwe.

Most good schools in Zimbabwe are unaffordable. Matjinge provides hope to many children whose families cannot afford expensive boarding schools. The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe provides uniforms and subsidises the \$20 per term school fees. Despite this, some parents still cannot afford them.

The Matjinge Circuit faces many challenges and hardships. With climate change, drought has worsened. The school’s borehole ran dry and children were having to walk about 5 kilometres to fetch water. The headteacher, James Ndlovu, explained how this affected the pupils in this short video.

<https://youtu.be/knnsoZO2DSg>

With funding from donations, a borehole was restored and solar pump installed on the school grounds, about 300 m from the girls' dormitory and 200 m from the main school buildings.

The water is pumped to two storage tanks to provide a regular supply to three taps - one for the school, one for the manse and one for the community.



Next the school and manse installed a satellite internet connection and bought six additional laptop computers. The children and teachers access educational resources and we can communicate with the Superintendent, but only when the electricity supply is working.

<https://youtu.be/bptc9B22Duc>



Our next goal is to provide solar lamps for the children and a solar battery to power the internet connection reliably. Could you help the children and families in Matjinge with a one-off or regular donation?



For further information please contact Dr Rosemary Rayner: drrjayner@gmail.com.

Chapter 7: Personal reflections.

Recollections of David Elvidge

My wife and I came to Norfolk in 1975, living in South Wootton. We worshipped at St Faith's, Gaywood, which had an LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership) arrangement, where Anglicans and Methodists worshipped together (Gail is Anglican and I am Methodist, but we worship the same God!). At that time there were two leading figures in this part of the Methodist world: Leonard Barratt in the King's Lynn circuit and Wallace Ward in the Hunstanton circuit.

In those days there was the annual Methodist Wayfarer's Supper, held in the summertime. We would be given the place where the first course was to be served, and it was then by word-of-mouth that we found out where to go for the main course. That in turn, again by word-of-mouth, was when we discovered the location for the desert & coffee. It was through these suppers that I first visited Hunstanton Methodist Church and met Wallace.

In 2006, when our four children had long left home, that Gail & I attended a concert in St Edmund's church. For some time, she had been trying to 'persuade' me that we should leave our five-bedroom house and move to a bungalow. Gail repeated this as we walked to St Edmund's and suggested Hunstanton would be a nice place to begin the next chapter of our life together. I had not been feeling very well, so in order to quieten her I said 'yes', expecting the matter to be forgotten. Not so! Next day Gail announced she was going round the estate agents in Hunstanton! The ensuing sale of our house, purchase of a bungalow and some refurbishment work, led to us finally moving to Hunstanton in April 2007. I have to say that I have never regretted the move and Hunstanton is a delightful place to live.

Having arrived in Hunstanton, we both decided we would try the various churches in the area, Anglican for Gail and Methodist for me. I decided to try the nearest Methodist church first and then work my way around others before deciding where I would be happiest. So, on Easter Day, 2007, I went to Hunstanton Methodist Church. This was before the major building works. I entered the Austin Street entrance and was welcomed and given a hymn book by Fred Parton. I sat in one of the pine pews at the back. I had only been there a short time when a gentleman at the front turned round and saw me. He got up and came to shake my hand, that man was Ernest Bates, who I was to become to know well. The service was conducted by Wallace Ward, a fine local preacher.

After this joyful Easter service, we made our way along the outside of the church to the hall, where tea & coffee were served. I remember being surrounded by such nice people and could not have been made more welcome. When I returned home, I told Gail that I had found my spiritual home and would look no further for a place to worship. In my prayers that night I thanked God for directing me to Hunstanton Methodist Church and prayed a blessing on all the nice people there.

The Minister in 2007 was Rev Kim Nally, who I had met at a funeral service. Kim had been Minister at St Andrew's Methodist church, Cleethorpes; Gail and I were married at Beacontorpe Methodist church, Cleethorpes. In due course my membership was transferred from St Faith's to Hunstanton, this being marked during morning worship at Hunstanton.

At the time of my arrival in 2007, discussions were in full swing on a proposal to do a major refurbishment of the church and a new building to link the church and hall. I do remember some shall we say, 'passionate' discussion over what was going to be significant expenditure. But there was a majority in favour of the scheme, and this went ahead in 2008/9. The church (worship area) was changed to face the gallery and Austin Street, with access from the new 'link' extension connecting with the hall. A major feature in the worship area is a large 'sail', reminding us that Hunstanton is a seaside town, but it can also be used to project stills and videos onto it.

During the time building work was in progress, a temporary entrance was made in the end of the school room to gain access to the hall which we used for worship. When everything was finished, a rededication service took place, with the then President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev David Gamble, as the preacher.

I had been blissfully free of any office in church until one day Kim drew me to one side and asked if I would become 'Pastoral Tsar'! After some thought I accepted but felt perhaps 'Pastoral Secretary' would be more appropriate!

Hunstanton Methodist Church (HMC) from Summer 1983 – Summer 2021 from the perspective of Julia and Michael Warnes

During the 38 years for which Hunstanton Methodist Church was our spiritual home, we experienced the ministry of:

Tony Gledhill (just for the first couple of months we were here.)

Margaret Meakin, from September 1983 during whose ministry regular monthly Family Services were established. Over the school summer holiday period a rota of those experienced in leading Family Worship led Sunday Morning Services in the core churches of the Hunstanton Circuit. (Olive Lotsu, Stuart Bellis, Barbara Southgate and the assistant minister in the Circuit.)

Keith Ledson, from September (?)1990 -1995

David Bucktrout, from September (?) 1995 - 2001 during which time Annual Church Away Days were introduced which were a great uplift to the spiritual life of the church and considerable spiritual growth was witnessed among many individuals at this time.

Kim Nally, from September (?)2001- 2013, during which time the church building was re-ordered, completed in 2009, and the creation of the role of Layworker with specific responsibilities for discipling and outreach.

Steve Oliver, (?) 2013 -2020, a pattern of midweek communion and Minister led Bible Studies, with a proliferation of meaningful pastoral ministry.

1980's

We moved to Hunstanton on 1 June 1983 with Michael's job and a family of 5.

Michael, Julia, Hannah (aged 4 due to start school in September), Rebecca (aged nearly 3) and Ben (Aged 6 months).

Prior to our move we had been attending an Evangelical Church of England (CofE), parish church and were looking for a church with sound Bible teaching, an active prayer life and facilities for children. Both Michael and I had a mixed church background between the Methodist Church and CofE.

We had done our homework and Hunstanton Methodist Church became our spiritual home for 38 years.

At the time we joined the church in 1983, there was a significantly sized congregation, I would estimate about 80 in number and 2 services every Sunday.

There was an active Sunday School for 3-year-olds upwards through to younger teenagers. Charlie and Betty Frammingham, and Margaret and Alison Bellis were the core Sunday School teachers. And there was a weekly Youth Club headed up by the assistant Minister for the then Hunstanton Circuit, supported by Charlie Frammingham.

The older teenagers, over 16's formed part of a group guided by Wallace Ward who would go round the Circuit with Wallace to help leading services – including readings, prayers and singing.

There was a weekly early morning prayer meeting (7.15) so people who were still in employment could attend before going to work. Some folks from other churches in the town also joined in this.

There was a regular Bible Study; as well as a midweek fellowship group held at the home of Joan and Carl Brocklesby.

During the School Summer Holidays 2 Beach Missions were held. One week was run by Scripture Union headed up by Margaret Manning. Members of HMC, together with other churches in the town, provided meals, hospitality and laundry facilities for the teams running the missions. And the older teenagers supplemented the visiting teams in helping to run activities and oversee the children.

Gradually, regular Sunday School was changing due to societal changes and during the 1980's the church facilities for children evolved into 'midweek Sunday School' in the form of Gateway Club run after school on a Tuesday.

It began as a single session for middle-school age group (8-12 year olds) led by Gill Hall, a member of HMC and teacher at Middle School, assisted by Margaret Bellis and Julia Warnes. It was not long before there was great demand for a similar session for First School Children (5-7 year olds) and a second session was started before the Middle School group.

This activity ran through to the early 1990's, morphed into a Christian Children's group for the town and surrounding villages and leadership was drawn from all the churches working together.

As some of the youngsters moved up to secondary school a Sunday evening Youth Get - together was organized and run by Julia and Michael Warnes in their home. This catered for about 12-16 years old and about 12 youngsters would attend each Sunday.

Interestingly, the biggest number of youngsters came from the Catholic Church. This group continued for many years gradually moving from the Warnes' home to meeting at the Union Church. In each venue it was supported as a group for the town supported by all the then existing churches.

How the local churches worked together – including what went on in individual churches – was directly affected by how the clergy of the time functioned within the 'Churches Together' Movement.

Separate from that was the impact of the Hunstanton Area Outreach Committee which started from 1986-7 onwards for many years. Ecumenical working thrived at different times.

Under the auspices of this committee churches from Dersingham, Snettisham, Heacham, Old Hunstanton and Docking worked together to organize outreach activities for the area.

Beach Missions were supported for 2 weeks every summer. As previously mentioned, these were run by Scripture Union for one week and a Baptist Ministry from Suffolk.

All the local churches combined provided accommodation, meals and supplemented staffing on the missions. Many of the older teenagers from the churches worked on these.

To help support the older teenagers, the theatre was hired for a weekend and a popular Christian group were invited to come to perform a Christian Pop Concert.

There was an annual Keswick Convention hosted at HMC with a Speaker from the main Keswick Convention. Meetings – Bible Studies were led by the visiting speaker and meals were provided on the Church premises. This was usually held in the early autumn.

Members of the HMC made huge contributions to all these activities.

1990's

By this time, there were a group of musically able young people within the congregation at HMC, and under the leadership of Gill Hall (piano) and Michael Warnes (keyboard) a music group was formed to play at the once-a-month Family Services. The group comprised Lisa Blake and Ruth Lewis (violin), Hannah Warnes (flute), Rebecca Warnes (Clarinet), Ed Blake (trumpet), Julia Warnes (singer and guitar) and Ben Warnes (drums). This continued until the older youngsters left to go away to college/university.

With various changes in people's circumstances, by this time there were 2 fellowship groups which ran on a Thursday evening. They had quite different characteristics: one was very informal and more charismatic and the other more formal bible study style meeting, but both supported the dynamic prayer life of the church.

From 2000

In the early 2000's, some of the smaller chapels in the Circuit were no longer viable to run. These included Brancaster and Sedgeford. The money from the sale of these chapels was designated to be used within the geographical circuit and following a democratic vote provided the resource to re-order HMC. The physical re-ordering of the building was completed in 2009.

Alongside the physical re-ordering of the church building and in line with developments across the Methodist Connection, churches were required to review the church life. From a suggestion from Richard Armiger, the District Enablement Officer, we took on the challenge of an audit of the life of the church using the Healthy Churches approach which involved gaining the views of all church members resulting in an action plan.

The action plan included:

- Continuing to develop Café style worship once a month

- Film Cafes during the winter months
- Revisiting the approach of running monthly lunches
- Joint Church /Community projects: working with and offering spiritual support to the Stroke Group meeting on our premises – including an annual Carol Service; monthly tea with tales which was focussed on supporting folks with dementia and their carers; and monthly Saturday morning art and craft sessions for families with children with special needs.
- Annual church projects to support organizations chosen by the church members alternating between home and overseas charities.
- Regular monthly Bible Study
- Weekly Prayer meeting – Coffee with God
- Discipleship Courses – Christianity Explored and Discipleship explored

I was commissioned as Lay Worker in 2013 to assist the then Minister, Rev Kim Nally, through a period of illness and in answer to God’s call on my life. My initial contract of 3 years ran concurrently with my attendance at Moorlands Bible College. The Lay Worker role was the practical element of my training in Applied Theology, focussing on church growth. This was then extended for a further 5 years. This took us through maintaining fellowship by personal delivery of weekly service material and also virtual services of worship during the Covid pandemic. And also the gradual opening up of the church with the required infection control processes in place.

This brought us to the end of my and Michael’s time of service for the Lord at HMC.

Memories of Hunstanton Methodist Church

by Jean Parton and Anne Barker (nee Parton)

By virtue of the fact that Gwen Parton attended Hunstanton Methodist Church prior to her marriage to Fred Parton, the Church was part of our lives from the beginning.

Gwen and Fred met at the NAAFI held in the tin hut in Austin Street during the second-world war and after a short spell in Stoke on Trent, returned to Hunstanton when Jean was nine months old and lived at 24 Church Street until their deaths. Anne and Leslie followed to complete the family.

Sunday School was a given – both morning and afternoon – ably led by June and Joan Denny, twin sisters followed on by Betty and Charlie Frammingham. Joyce and Mary Buxton would also have been involved in the life of the Sunday School.

Many escapades were made across the Circuit with Brian Hinton taking his ‘harmonium’ to perform ‘concerts’ at various chapels. The home of his parents Dr and Mrs Hinton were often frequented for tea parties.

Youth club took place in the tin hut with Phyl Taylor and Charlie Frammingham. Jean and Charlie ran the club for a time with many adventures taking place – night-time hikes seemed to be the vogue in the 60’Ss Several MAYC (Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) London Weekends were frequented in addition to Methodist District youth events. Eventually the move was made into the pristine new hall!

Fred and Gwen Parton took a very active role in the life of the Church especially after Fred retired from seasonal work which had entailed working at weekends. Gwen was the ‘jumble sale’ lady who organised countless such sales for the good of charity and the church. She saw these as not just fundraising events, but of meeting with the local people who might not otherwise come onto Church premises. She and Fred were also involved in the café which took place and all the other social events attached to the Church.

Fred took on ‘caretaking’ duties and on many a cold Saturday night, much to the consternation of Gwen, he would walk up to Church to ensure the heating had come on for the Sunday morning service. He, along with others, ensured the premises were kept in good order and that if the heating was on, external doors were kept shut!

He was also a door steward for Sunday evening worship ensuring those coming into the building received a warm welcome. He was also the one, who, if he thought conversation was going on too long after the service, would begin to put out the lights!

It was fitting that Fred’s funeral was the last one to be held in the Sanctuary prior to refurbishment and Gwen’s was the first one to take place in the refurbished space.

We give thanks to God for the way they lived their Christian lives and influenced not only their children, but all those with whom they came in contact.

Recollections by Rev Ray Cummins

My first appointment as a Probationary Minister was to the Hunstanton Circuit, where the people were welcoming, supportive and very encouraging to my Ministry. It was of course a steep learning curve for me and the whole Circuit was patient and very willing to work alongside me, being open to change and to trying new ways in Ministry.

I have many happy and positive memories of my time at Dersingham and Syderstone, as well as preaching in the other Circuit Churches that I served, i.e. Anmer, Snettisham, Sedgeford, Stanhoe and Syderstone, as well as preaching in the other Circuit Churches, all of which were wonderful experiences, and proved to be a solid foundation for my future ministry, for which I am very grateful.

I enjoyed many aspects of my Ministry and outreach whilst in the Hunstanton Circuit. The Ecumenical Links with shared services were enriching times and enjoyed by all who attended, the Holiday Clubs at Snettisham and Stanhoe were great times for all (the helpers were wonderful and very creative), the B.B.Q.'s at Stanhoe and Dersingham were great times of fellowship, as were the Flower Festivals and Afternoon Teas (for coach parties) held at Dersingham.

As I continued and moved to other Circuits, I know that my time in the Hunstanton Circuit was beneficial not only to myself, but to many others, the Circuit and its members have remained in my heart, and always will. We still keep in touch with some (Christmas cards and letters).



Chapter 8: Acknowledgements

King's Lynn Library

Jean Parton

Phil Thomas (Hunstanton Society)

Town and Around magazine

Hugh Rayner

Norma Virgoe

John Ward

Julia and Michael Warnes

Rev Ray Cummins

Rev Dr Richman Ncube

Joy Webb

Richard Webb

Members and friends of Hunstanton Methodist Church

Chapter 9:

Hunstanton Methodist Church Ministers (Hunstanton Wesleyan Circuit)

The Hunstanton Circuit merged with the West Norfolk Circuit in September 2010.

1887 George H Howson	Walsingham and Docking Wesleyan
1888 David W Barr	Circuit
1891 Frederick H Thomas	1875 J Woollerton
1892 J Lewis Smith	1876 Caleb Streat
1895 Edward Charlesworth	1877-78 Thomas N Grffin
1897 Richard H Higson	1879 D Eyre
1900 Ernest A Stead	1880-82 Joseph Mole
1903 Harold Hopkinson	1883-85 H Needle
1905 William A Phillips	1886 G H Howson
1909 Charles E Griffin	
1912 William J Rogers	Methodist union took place in 1932 and
1915 Sidney Pitt	there is a hand-written note in the
1916 Harvey Field	archives of ministers who served in a
1918 F Hubert Pritchard	new circuit absorbing Hunstanton
1923 Sherwin Smith	Wesleyan and Docking Primitive
1926 Frederick Senior	circuits. Some names are indistinct.
1928 Percy E Farrar	1935-36 A E Rose
1931 Thomas Fletcher	1936-39 Thomas Jukes
1935 Thomas Jukes	1937-40 R B Large
1939 George J Chamberlain	1940-44 G J Chamberlain
1944 A Barrett Gowers	1941-42 J L Barlow
1947 William G Carty	1943-46 Alec R Chastney
1951 Percy C Cadamy	1944-46 A B Gowers
1954 John Winn	1947-50 William G Carter
1961 Sidney R Holt	1950 Herbert G Hawkes
1966 Albert Fairhurst	1947-49 Ernest E Warren
1973 George R Nunnerley	1951 Percy C Cadamy
1978 Anthony H Gledhill	1951 Albert A Pattin [?]
1983 Margaret A E Meakin	
1990 Keith J Ledson	For a time, the Hunstanton Circuit had a
1993 David B Bucktrout	Superintendent Minister, based at
2001 Kim Nally	Hunstanton Methodist Church,
2014 Stephen Oliver	supported by a second minister.
2020 Richman Ncube	Available records show the following
	additional ministers:
	1980: David Vale
	1985: David Walter
	1989: Raymond Cummins
	1994: Ian Worrall
	1999: Pam Bayliss

Circuit 1945 - 2010

In 1945 the Hunstanton and Docking Circuit Magazine listed chapels at Hunstanton, Docking, Dersingham (Sandringham Road), Dersingham (Wesley), Anmer, Bircham, Brancaster Staithe, Brancaster Town, Burnham Market, Burnham Thorpe, Fritcham, Heacham (High Street), Heacham (Station Road) and Holme.

The final service for the closing of the Hunstanton Circuit took place on 11 July 2010. It became part of the West Norfolk Circuit.



